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MEMOIR

OF

SAMUEL CAPPER.

"We are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end."—HEB. iii. 14.

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In presenting the following Memoir to the reader, it is hoped that the example of a persevering endeavour to serve the Lord Jesus, and the evidence of the sustaining efficacy of faith in Him, will prove a stimulus to the young to surrender themselves to the government of the Prince of Peace; and also an encouragement to those further advanced in the Christian course, under the conflicts and besetments which may attend them, not to cast away their confidence, "which hath great recompense of reward."

K. BACKHOUSE.

Darlington,
1855.

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MEMOIR

OF

SAMUEL CAPPER.

CHAPTER I.

1782—1816.

HIS CHILDHOOD, YOUTH, AND CALL TO THE MINISTRY.

SAMUEL CAPPER was the son of Jasper and Anne Capper, and was born in London the 2nd of the 3rd month, 1782.

Few particulars are preserved of his early life, but it appears that, during his childhood, he gave his parents much uneasiness, especially from his disposition to hide his faults by untruths.

About the thirteenth year of his age, however, it pleased his heavenly Father so powerfully to visit him by the Holy Spirit, that he became convinced of his sinful condition, and of his need of deliverance; and at this period of life, when scarcely emerged from childhood, he was made willing to take upon him the yoke of the Lord Jesus, and to learn of Him; and it thenceforward became his principal aim to be His faithful disciple.

Instead of being, as before, impatient of the restraints laid upon him by his parents, he now was

submissive to their wishes, and in many ways helpful to them; and it was one of his enjoyments to visit and relieve the wants of the poor, by whom he was much beloved.

As he expressed a desire to be placed in a country situation, a suitable one was found for him in the family of Joseph Naish, a valuable friend, who kept a shop in the village of Congresbury (near Bristol), where he went in the year 1796.

We have very few notices of his religious experience while a youth, but he appears to have seriously felt this change of circumstance; and he has mentioned that, in the first meeting for worship which he attended, after arriving at Congresbury, he was engaged in silent supplication to be preserved from evil, and rightly directed as to his conduct in life. We have good reason to believe that these secret exercises of his soul were graciously regarded, for he grew in grace as he advanced in years. May this prove an inducement to the young thus to dedicate themselves in their early days!

Before leaving his home, Samuel Capper had formed a close friendship with John Whiting, afterwards of Hitchen, with whom he corresponded. The following extracts from two of his letters will show the state of his mind when little more than fourteen years of age:—

"*Congresbury*, 29, 5 mo. 1796.

Dear John,—Though I have not written to thee, I have not forgotten thee. I find that the Christian warfare is a continual one; for, since I am eased of the burden which I was under when at home, and

settled in a family where there are few temptations from without, I find so much inclination to levity that I can hardly withstand; yet, through the abundant goodness of the Lord, I sometimes meet with a brook by the way, to strengthen and refresh me. I am surprised that the hand of mercy should yet be extended to me.

Congresbury, 30, 10 mo. 1796.

Dear John,—I labour under great trial; for the enemy of our souls, who knows the sins which will most easily beset, is very busy to draw off my attention, when I am set down to worship the Author of all good; and so these opportunities, which would I trust otherwise prove salutary, are rendered dry and lifeless. At other times, out of meetings, when I am favoured with the Divine presence, I make resolutions like this—'O Lord! if thou wilt help me next time, I will keep up the watch;' but, when the time comes, the enemy comes in like a flood, and overwhelms me; and I come away in heaviness. Another temptation I have been favoured, of late, to overcome more than heretofore; yet I am afraid of boasting, knowing my own weakness, and the craftiness of the enemy; and I think that I write in humility and fear. And now, dear John, though I feel my inability to advise or encourage, yet I think I may say that, on reading thy letter, it struck me that this state of trial may be blest. It is written, 'I will allure her into the wilderness, and will speak comfortably to her.' Now the day of our alluring is past, and the day of proving is come; therefore let us wait patiently for the arising

of Him who is 'mighty to save and able to deliver;' for I really believe He will arise in his own time, and make bare his arm for our deliverance. In a fresh sense of His love, which I think I feel extended to thee at this time, as well as to many others, I conclude, and am, in much affection,

SAMUEL CAPPER."

During his apprenticeship, he conducted himself so as to obtain the love and esteem of his employer, to whose youngest daughter, Elizabeth, he formed an attachment, and they were married in the early part of the year 1803.

He commenced business as a draper in Bristol, and had a flourishing trade; but he was brought into so much exercise of mind by the consideration that he was deriving pecuniary profit from the sale of things which fed the vain mind in others, that he became dissatisfied with his engagement, and concluded to look out for a farm—agriculture being a pursuit which he preferred, both from judgment and inclination.

His mother, while on a visit to him in 1808, made the following remarks, among her private memoranda:

"1808, 10 mo. 27. Much pleased with my simple-hearted son Samuel; both by his appearance and by his desire to be exactly what he ought to be.

28. Went to see a place to which he wishes to remove; with thirty-eight acres of land and a very poor house. Though I was obliged to tell my dear Samuel that I could not approve of it, I do earnestly desire that, in due time, some way may open for him to be relieved from dealing in the vanities of this life.

I desire to be brought into near feeling with him, for I see he is low."

His affectionate mother's desires for him were soon after granted, as Wm. Powell, of Nursteed, near Devizes, agreed to let him a farm, and to build a house on it for him.

He accordingly removed, with his family, into Wiltshire in 1809. He greatly enjoyed the change of employment, which however he soon found was in danger of occupying too much of his attention, and thereby, in some measure, diverting him from seeking "*first* the kingdom of God and the righteousness thereof." To this snare his eyes were more fully opened by a visit from his sister Rebecca Bevan, who was liberated by her monthly meeting, early in 1812, for religious service in Wiltshire; and who, in the course of her communication in the little meeting at Devizes, quoted the following verses, from the second chapter of Ecclesiasticus, which were powerfully brought home to his heart:—

"1. My son, if thou come to serve the Lord, prepare thy soul for temptation.

2. Set thy heart aright, and constantly endure, and make not haste in time of trouble.

3. Cleave unto Him, and depart not away, that thou mayst be increased at thy last end.

4. Whatsoever is brought upon thee, take cheerfully, and be patient, when thou art changed to a low estate.

5. For gold is tried in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of adversity.

6. Believe Him, and He will help thee; order thy way aright, and trust in Him."

In allusion to this, he thus wrote to one of his sisters:—

"*Potterne Farm*, 17, 3 mo. 1812.

.... It is not usual for me to communicate any of the feelings which I experience, but I am inclined to say that my sister Bevan's visit has produced a humiliating sensation in my mind, which still attends it; being convinced that a closer attention to my inward Guide would not have suffered me to remain in my present dwarfish state."

Samuel Capper had long had an apprehension that he should be called to the work of the ministry; he had experienced some of the needful preparatory baptisms, and now, in afresh yielding his heart to the operation of the Holy Spirit, while he was humbled and brought low under a sense of his own insufficiency for so important a work, his faith was strengthened in the power and goodness of Him who only could give the essential qualification.

In obedience to the call, he first spoke as a minister in the year 1813. He soon after became concerned for the spiritual welfare of those employed on the farm, whom he was accustomed to collect, to read the Scriptures, etc., to them; some of which occasions proved deeply interesting.

The distresses of those engaged in agriculture, about this time, were great; and, his family being already large, it was no small trial to him to be thus circum-

stanced; but the waves of affliction were not permitted to overwhelm him, although his difficulties induced him to think seriously of going to America. In the midst of his perplexities, he was not unmindful of the great business of life, and writes thus to two of his sisters:—

"*Potterne Farm*, 10, 2 mo. 1816.

My very dear sisters R. Bevan and K. C.—

Your affectionate letter came to hand to-day. I think I can rejoice when any are anointed for service; and, perhaps, this is as high a feeling as any that I have been favoured with of late. However, we know that, when the heart is stayed upon the only Source of good, there is often an unexpected watering season; and I might be encouraged by this reflection, if I did not know that my mind is not so preserved. I believe it is best for me to have but little enjoyment of Divine favour. Perhaps I may have prized sensible enjoyment more highly than the blessing of knowing that the work of purification was proceeding.

It would, my dear Rebecca, be extremely satisfactory to me to know how thou feelst, after thy arduous engagement is closed.* Thy kind few lines were refreshing to me, as I find by them that I am not a solitary instance of frequently, after having done what seemed to be required, being insensible of the incomes of peace, and only just feeling that I have not done wrong. I am, my dear sisters, with much love, which I am thankful to feel, your affectionate brother."

* Visiting the families of Devonshire House meeting, with Susanna Horne.

CHAPTER II.

1816—1819.

LETTERS FROM ROBERT FOWLER—DEATH OF HIS SISTER R. BEVAN, AND OF HIS FATHER—LABOURS IN THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY, ETC.

SAMUEL CAPPER was acknowledged as a minister of the gospel, in 1817, by the monthly meeting of Friends of Wiltshire; and he soon believed himself called upon to travel in that character. He had a kind and experienced friend and counsellor in Robert Fowler, of Melksham, to whom he unfolded some of his exercises, and from whose letters extracts will be given. It is believed that Samuel Capper destroyed his own letters, on their being returned to him after R. Fowler's death.

ROBERT FOWLER TO S. CAPPER.

"*Melksham*, 18, 10 mo. 1817.

DEAR FRIEND,—As the subject which thou hinted to me has drawn my attention, and raised an affectionate solicitude, it may be a relief to myself by a few lines to show that I feel, and desire to feel, sympathy with thee. I have pondered thy outward situation; and, though few and limited may have been the opportunities afforded of proving the gift bestowed, I believe they have not been without profit; for I am persuaded that, as through watchfulness the mind is preserved within the sacred enclosure, and 'the boar

out of the wood' kept from wasting it, thus stedfastly looking to the Lord, nourishment is received, and a growth follows, though it may be wholly imperceptible to ourselves; as surely follows as do the dews of the night surely contribute, with the rays of the sun, to promote the maturity of the plant, in the outward creation; and, though the branches may not appear to enlarge, yet the root is extending; for, whilst there is life in the root, growth in some part will be going forward, or the plant be under preparation for it. It seems to me that it would be as reasonable to look for a stop to vegetation, while full degrees of heat and moisture are afforded, as to think that the 'Plant of Renown' ceases to grow, whilst it continues under the 'shadow of the Almighty,' because the branches do not appear to spread. The winter season, which I suppose for a time checks the growth, prepares the plant for increased energy; and I do believe that thy (in part) sequestered lot, as thy conflicts are rightly endured, will, under the preparing hand, conduce to future strength. Thou wilt possibly plead the want of qualification for so important an engagement as that of an 'ambassador for Christ,' beseeching others to be reconciled to God. The instance of the widow of one of the prophets, who came to Elisha, has much instruction in it; and, to a mind tried by spiritual want, may have much encouragement. She had a debt to pay, and she appeared not to have anything wherewith she could pay it; yet, under the Divine blessing, *a pot of oil* was made sufficient to discharge all the debt. In this day, wherein the church has

known so many of its pillars removed, those who seek her support must be solicitous for the preservation of her borders. Mayst thou, dear friend, be resigned as an instrument in the Divine hand; and, being built up thereby on the ground upon which these pillars stood, mayst thou become one to go no more out! Perhaps it is proper that I should apologize for the freedom of these remarks; I think I cannot do it better than by repeating the assurance that I nearly sympathize with thee. Thy affectionate friend,

ROBERT FOWLER."

Samuel Capper obtained a certificate for visiting the meetings of Friends in Somersetshire, etc., but, before he set out, he was called to attend the interment of his beloved sister Rebecca Bevan, who, after a suffering illness, was taken from her young family. He thus writes to one of his sisters, who, for a short time, undertook the charge of them:—

"*Potterne Farm*, 22, 11 mo. 1817.

MY BELOVED SISTER,—I think I can truly say that both my wife and I are brought into sympathy with thee; for, under thy circumstances, almost every object must recal thy loss; and, much as we may and I trust do rejoice in her glorious and eternal change, yet we shall still feel; and I believe it is good for us so to do. Thou hast judged rightly of my state. I am as poor as any one can be, and not without many temptations, which I believe it is best not to say much about. I go in *faith*, for I have no sight but the duty of going; and I trust, however mortifying it

may prove to me, that my desire for preservation may be graciously answered. Wm. Powell has been as kind as if he had been my father. My dear love to my brother Bevan, and to dear little Mary.

Taunton, 8, 12 mo. 1817.

My dear Sister,—I scarcely know what to tell thee, and thou knowst how subject we are to vicissitudes of feeling, at such times as this. My brother Jos. F. Gundry is with me, having kindly offered his company, and I may acknowledge that we have cause humbly to think that we have been graciously helped and condescended to. I feel myself to be but a child in this important work, yet something of the necessity seems laid upon me; even the woe, if I do not, in my small measure, preach the gospel. Our late dear sister is often mentioned with affectionate regret."

About this time his wife became indisposed, and while she was from home for the re-establishment of her health, he wrote as follows to her:—

"*Potterne Farm*, 12, 2 mo. 1818.

My beloved Elizabeth,—As I have been sitting alone, I have thought that we ought to receive even these dispensations with thankfulness; for they should contribute (as I believe they are intended to do) to our more close union with our dear Redeemer, and establishment upon Him; and, if this should be the case, we shall indeed have cause to rejoice; for, as we advance in the experience of his gracious dealings, we shall be more and more bound together, in a conformity with his blessed example. Thine, S. C."

His wife's health being restored, he left home, in order to attend the yearly meeting, and sends her the following memoranda during his absence:—

"*Tottenham*, 21, 5 mo. 1818.

MY DEAR ELIZABETH,—It was concluded to set William Rickman at liberty for visiting Friends in North America. I dined in Mildred Court, with the three Elizabeth Frys, Jos. J. Gurney, his sister Priscilla, Mary Proud, Joseph Storrs, etc. *Here* I have been much affected with the sense of the loss of our dear sister, who is greatly missed. I feel much for her husband, but I desire to bow to the Divine will, and to believe that the stroke was in wisdom. And now, my dear E., I wish to add the expression of my near affection for thee, and of solicitude that, if right, thou mayst be favoured with health; and that we may be preserved in simple dependence on Christ, without being disposed too much to consider outward things.

Stoke Newington, 22nd. I was at Westminster meeting. Richard Phillips was eminently favoured; it seemed as if his cup was running over. I dined with him, and we had much instructive conversation.

27th. At John Sanderson's, Hannah Field addressed parents encouragingly; also those engaged in the ministry; and Rachel Fowler addressed me, expressing a desire that I might not be discouraged, and assuring me that I had the unity of the brethren.

29th. I went into the women's yearly meeting, with Isaac Stephenson, Richard Phillips, Wm. Grover, and James Hack. I have only time to say farewell.

Thine, S. C."

As Samuel Capper did not keep a journal at this period of his life, we avail ourselves of extracts from his correspondence.

The following letter from Robert Fowler to him is a touching specimen of humility and condescension, in one who was truly a father in the church toward a younger brother:—

"*Melksham*, 14, 9 mo. 1818.

DEAR FRIEND SAMUEL CAPPER,—I am afraid that thou hast not so fully relieved thy mind, this afternoon, as would have been desirable to thy friends, and might have left thee without a sense of any remaining debt; for I think thy communication carried with it an evidence that, like the apostle, thou wast 'a debtor both to the wise and to the unwise.' Reverting to the supposed omission of a full discharge of duty, let us a little consider what could give rise to it. Was it that I occupied some portion of time which should have been thine? If it has been so, I desire that it may prove an instructive memento to me. I have often found that it requires deep watchfulness, to step forward at the right time after the seal is opened, and to stand still when it is Divinely shut. In seeking after this high attainment, I believe many, who have long been following Him who continues to sustain the gracious character of *counsellor*, can say, 'Not as though I had already attained.' Notwithstanding this may appear 'an hard saying,' yet, dear friend, I believe thou and I may both derive encouragement from remembering that, although those who are upright in their intentions may fall seven times, yet, as they put

their trust in the Lord, they will be permitted to rise; yea, will be lifted up again."

The health of S. C.'s father, Jasper Capper, was now sensibly declining, and he writes to his sister:—

"*Potterne Farm*, 7, 10 mo. 1818.

My Dear,—A very affectionate letter from my mother yesterday in degree relieved us from anxiety on our dear father's account, though we still feel very nearly both with him and you. I find that he is, at times, much tried by a want of that sense of acceptance with which I trust he will be favoured. How many probations and reductions we need, before we are fitted for that glorious change which I have no doubt will, through redeeming mercy, be his experience, whenever it pleases the Lord to draw the curtain on his earthly habitation! May we all be favoured to wait our change with an equal degree of resignation and humility! I should have written to my mother, but considered that thou couldst convey the contents of this at a time when her spirits may be able to bear it. It may not be right to disturb my father with our concerns, respecting which, of course, thou wilt use thy own judgment. It may seem extraordinary to you that I have not thought of paying you a visit, but thou wilt readily conceive that the momentous concern, *to me*, of appointing a public meeting renders me unfit for anything more than a sincere and lively sympathy with each of you. I am introduced according to my measure, I trust, into a baptism of spirit by the prospect. The meeting is to be with the inhabit-

ants of a village called Seend. I am sure you will feel for me, for I do sincerely believe that it is hardly possible for a more unqualified instrument to be made use of on such an occasion. I could not, if I would, describe the state of my mind under these circumstances; but may say, that I mostly seem to be all poverty and weakness. Wm. Powell is increasingly tender and sympathizing as an elder; his conduct and conversation frequently remind me of the words, 'All the days of my appointed time will I wait, until my change come.' I believe he has been favoured of late with an increase of sanctification, in which blessed experience I wish we may all be his companions.

Thy affectionate brother, S. C."

R. FOWLER TO S. C.

"*Melksham*, 12, 10 mo. 1818.

My dear Friend,—Thy letter came to my dear R. F.'s hand in my absence. The subject which thou hast laid before us is an important one, and has interested our feelings; for it is important to invite our fellow-pilgrims to sit down with us in a religious assembly, especially in places where, as a collective body, we are but little known. I say not this with any view to discourage thee in the discharge of religious duty; but seeing that it is a solemn engagement, I thus convey our feelings and sympathy.

When the prospect of religious duties is opened, the mind may be permitted to feel them, while in a state comparable to the fleece which Gideon put on the floor, that was filled with dew; a deep sense of the

excellence and purity of the Divine Nature being spread over it, wherein the call may be extended to those who are wandering on the dark mountains of a high profession without humility, or to others who are walking in the broad way. As the mind continues in watchfulness and patient waiting, it is also, at seasons, permitted to feel the evidence confirmed when brought into a state of spiritual poverty and reduction, which may fitly be compared to the fleece when dry; in these is safety. May every requisite confirming evidence be granted thee, my dear friend, consistent with the faith which finally overcomes; and mayst thou be favoured to dwell in patience, looking unto the Lord for counsel, and waiting to see whether, like Abraham's great offering, the will be accepted, or whether the sacrifice of full obedience be finally required. Thy affectionate friend, R. Fowler."

We have already met with an evidence of Christian interest for the souls of those among whom he dwelt, in the care of the subject of this memoir toward his farm servants; an example which may well be commended to those similarly situated.

As he abode under those baptisms which are graciously allotted to such as are called to the ministry of the gospel, he felt attracted to the agricultural population of the neighbourhood; to invite them to assemble for the worship of God, after the simple way observed in our own religious Society. He was discouraged by a sense of his weakness and inexperience, but a companion in the work being unexpectedly furnished,

he was strengthened to engage in it, as appears by the following:—

"*Potterne Farm*, 11, 12 mo. 1818.

MY DEAR SISTER,—There is no doubt in my mind that thou feelst very much for me; and I believe that, if ever any poor creature was deserving of sympathy, I am; for no one, I should think, could apprehend anything to be required, of the qualification to perform which they felt more destitute.

We have had a very acceptable visit from dear Sylvanus Fox, and I do believe that he is eminently anointed for the service in which he is engaged. I wish I could feel myself to be so. He is travelling with a certificate, authorizing him to hold public meetings. The prospect, which is now under the consideration of my friends, has been mentioned to him, and I believe that he feels bound in his mind to attend the meetings. Thou wilt think these things extraordinary, and so do I; and, if the precious cause of truth do not suffer, I believe I shall be very thankful. Thou wilt not expect me to say much, for I am as poor as I ever felt. I shall be much pleased to hear of our dear father's health, etc. Thy affectionate brother."

R. FOWLER TO S. C.

"*Melksham*, 12, 12 mo. 1818.

DEAR FRIEND,—The receipt of thine is a release to my mind; a release, in that I had feared that thou wouldst permit conflict and discouragement to do more than their proper business. I am truly glad that

S. Fox is in our borders; for, as regards myself, I seem to be in that state which neither renders me able nor fit to open the smallest gate into the field of labour; comparable to a vessel that is out of use, and is laid aside with its mouth downward, to prevent its receiving anything improper. The first prospect of the meetings which are pending sank me still lower; but I hope a way will now be made, and that they will be held to the honour of the great cause."

There is reason to believe that this hope was fulfilled, and that Samuel Capper's mind was much relieved.

About this time he was brought into fresh trial respecting his farm; produce selling at such ruinous prices that he scarcely knew which way to act. In one of his letters to his youngest brother, he speaks of his thoughts being turned toward America; but he subsequently writes as follows:—

"*Potterne Farm*, 20, 6 mo. 1819.

My dear John,—I think that, if any light has arisen in my mind, it points toward remaining;—but I also think that I am willing to act as may be judged best by others. I am not desirous of encountering difficulties; but, if I were obliged to do it, I hope I should be favoured with patience, fortitude, and perseverance. I allude to crossing the Atlantic. I tell my boys that I intend to make them do some of my haymaking, which is just beginning. I do not know that we are much less cheerful than usual, as we have long felt our situation very much."

Again we find S. C. travelling, and holding public meetings; as appears by the following to his wife:—

"*Tewkesbury*, 28, 8 mo. 1819.

My dear Elizabeth,—I rode here yesterday morning before meeting, and I may say that I never sat down in one with more feeling of entire unfitness for the service. I had not, however, sat long before something opened on my mind, in expressing which I felt relief. My companion, Wm. Gundry, was more largely engaged, in an edifying manner, after which I thought it right to offer supplication. I feel unusually poor and stripped, which, with the prospect of a public meeting at Cheltenham to-morrow, is not pleasing to my natural inclination; but I do feel some degree of confidence that we shall be helped, and a hope that the truth may not suffer through us. My dear love to the children; I hope their conduct will be a comfort to thee, and not increase thy care during my absence."

"*Potterne Farm*, 7, 9 mo. 1819.

My dear Sister,—I returned home with a greater degree of peace than it is often my lot to feel. We attended the meetings of Friends in Gloucestershire, and had a public meeting at Cheltenham, and a large one at Dursley. I need not tell thee that these movements were not made without close exercise of mind, nor do I think that such should ever be made without it. I feel a hope that no harm has arisen to the cause which we wished to advance. Thy report of our dear mother's health is not very encouraging. I hope this

little account will give her pleasure, for I know that the prosperity of the truth is near her heart, and therefore these things must be interesting."

TO HIS BROTHER JOHN.

"*Potterne Farm*, 11, 10 mo. 1819.

.... I was glad to see thy kind letter, and have, for some time, been satisfied that I shall not readily leave this country. My reason for not writing to my father is a wish that thou mayst have it in thy power to take a suitable opportunity of speaking to him on my affairs."

His father became so ill about this time, that he paid him a visit, much to the comfort of both; but they felt the parting acutely, as J. C. was evidently near his end. He expired on the 24th of 12 mo., and S. C. attended the interment on the 31st. The next day he wrote as follows to his wife:—

"*Stoke Newington*, 1, 1 mo. 1820.

My dear Elizabeth,—Yesterday morning we contemplated, for the last time, the sweet features of our honoured and beloved parent. After about an hour of solemn silence, we proceeded to Winchmore Hill. Our dear mother bore the ride wonderfully, and we found a meeting-house, I believe, filled with those who loved and mourned the late object of our affection. The meeting was a very solemn one; every one present appeared impressed; and, although we were sensible of a deep wound, and a tender sorrow, yet the persuasion of the blessed and glorious change

which was his experience seemed to prevail over all other feelings. At the grave, our dear mother knelt and gave thanks that her strongest earthly tie was broken. It was very affecting, but she was greatly supported. After tea a very comfortable religious opportunity occurred, in which Ann Crowley's testimony was extraordinary, as regards our dear mother; for she said that she had an evidence that, after a few more trials and a little more affliction, she would be received into glory. The evening closed as quietly, and as comfortably, as such an evening could close.

Thine, S. C."

CHAPTER III.

1819—1825.

HE QUITS HIS FARM AND REMOVES TO BRISTOL, WHERE HE AGAIN ENGAGES IN BUSINESS—DEATH OF HIS MOTHER—HE VISITS FRIENDS IN WILTSHIRE, WITH CERTIFICATE, AND TRAVELS IN FRANCE WITH ROBERT FOWLER—DEATH OF R. FOWLER IN 1825.

His mother was very desirous that he should relinquish his farm, and turn his attention to something else; and an opening, in a business in Bristol, providentially occurring about this time, he availed himself of it; but it cost him much to give up his favourite avocation, and he was very low in the prospect of making the change. He returned to Bristol after an absence of about eight years, with a family of nine children.

The portion of his life passed at Potterne was certainly very interesting, and some of his children have the most endearing recollections of him while there; and of the delightful times of reading the Bible to him in the evenings and on first-days. They also read the history of our Society, etc.; and one of them remarks that she has no doubt that it laid the foundation for attachment to it, as they were thoroughly instructed in its principles. She adds, that his own example in the daily occurrences of life was such as was not likely ever to be forgotten. Thus did this lowly Christian, even when comparatively

young, preach by his watchful, circumspect walk, and by his private labours in his family, as well as in public by word and doctrine. He never sought great things, either for himself or his children; and he was never permitted to possess much of this world's goods: on the contrary, he had mostly to struggle with adversity; but he believed that it was the food convenient for him, and he received it with cheerfulness. His nature being social, open, and generous, he would have delighted in having to bestow, instead of to receive; but, seeing that this was not the Divine will concerning him, he submitted with true Christian meekness. His confidence in the Lord throughout was conspicuous, and very instructive; and it is comforting to remember that his last days were free from toil and solicitude as to outward things, and that he was able to enjoy devoting his time to the service of his Lord.

The sudden change from outdoor pursuits to confinement in a city, at first considerably affected his health, which he thus describes in a letter to his brother:—

"*Bristol*, 31, 5 mo. 1821.

My dear John,—Thy kind and affectionate letter was very acceptable, and seems to call upon me to inform thee that I am now well; owing chiefly, if not entirely, to the kindness of my friend Thomas Stock, who came on some trust business to breakfast with me; and, seeing me in so relaxed a state, insisted on the absolute necessity of horse exercise; and, to leave me without excuse, sent a horse to his own stable in

town, to remain there, on the condition that I keep it exercised. So I ride out every morning; but I must not long submit to his doing so, though I believe that in some way or other horse exercise I must have. I am more charmed with the scenery around than ever before."

His mother's death took place, after a long confinement, on the 19th of 11 mo. 1821, and he attended the interment, to the great comfort of the family.

During the next year, Samuel Capper appears to have been again engaged in religious service; visiting the meetings and families of Friends in Wiltshire. Whilst on this journey he writes to his wife :—

"*Melksham*, 13, 3 mo. 1823.

MY DEAR ELIZABETH,—Yesterday those weighty concerns of which thou hast been informed were brought forward, and awakened a deep feeling, under which the meeting appeared to travail in an unusual manner. I spent much of the afternoon in translating Robert Fowler's certificate, etc. I have since sat with his family, Cos. Maria Simpson's, etc., and must confess that, notwithstanding my incapacity for such concerns, I have been graciously helped to relieve my mind; and I do hope that the openings which I have had have not been without their impression on the minds of the visited. Certain I am that I have been deeply affected myself. My present plan is to spend first-day here, and see the Friends of Trowbridge, etc.

Thy affectionate husband."

The certificate here alluded to, for Robert Fowler, was one setting him at liberty for religious service in France. He proposed to Samuel Capper to accompany him in the journey, but he did not feel that it was his place so to do at that time. Robert Fowler passed many weeks in Paris during the summer of this year, but not finding his mind relieved, he retained his certificate, and returned to Paris in the spring of 1824, whence he writes to Samuel Capper:—

"*Paris*, 8, 5 mo. 1824.

.... This city abounds with foreigners, many of them English, who have been here for some time; probably not to their own advantage, nor to that of England. I can see only one advantage to the British nation from the present free intercourse, a conciliation of feeling toward each other, which may tend to the preservation of peace. A breach between the nations would be manifestly detrimental to the internal wealth of France.

Thou wilt probably expect me to say a little about myself: I have little to say. No duty appears to open, at present, except the one of being willing silently to suffer: and I am ready to think that every serious and reflecting mind must suffer, on seeing the affinity to that Athenian inscription, which the apostle found on one of their altars; for, although the present are not times of equal outward ignorance, yet sorrow must clothe the mind, under a fear that many are practically showing forth the import of the declaration, 'We have not so much as heard that there is an Holy

Ghost.' May the day be hastened wherein the people may be availingly pointed to its Divine efficacy!

Thy affectionate friend, ROBERT FOWLER."

During this interval, it appears that Samuel Capper had been passing through baptisms of spirit designed as a preparation for accompanying Robert Fowler to the South of France; for which purpose he obtained a certificate from his friends. His brother John C. went with him to Paris, where they found R. Fowler, and he and S. C. proceeded together.

EXTRACTS FROM S. C.'S LETTERS AND DIARY.

TO JOHN C.

"*Congénies*, 17, 7 mo. 1824.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—I believe if thou knew the state I am in from the heat, thou wouldst be sensible that it requires a degree of fortitude which every one does not possess to attempt anything but reclining. I rose at five this morning, and at six sat down to write; but such was the heat, that, with the window open and wooden shutters nearly shut, the flies almost prevented me. The people left the vineyards at half-past ten, the heat being insupportable. Standing on the ground seems like standing on burning embers. Our sail down the Saone and Rhone was gratifying to me. Thy great kindness in coming to Paris with me I often remember with affection and gratitude. I wish that my natural inclination to treat others as I wish to be treated did not lead me to be content with the fulness of my feelings, without saying much. My dear love to my sister; I hope she will feel assured

that thou wast a great help and comfort to me. I almost wish thou wast here, as I dread the task of interpreting, I think, more than anything else."

DIARY.

"7 mo. 19. Yesterday, being first-day, we were at meeting. I thought it my place to speak first, which I did in French with less difficulty than I expected; after which I interpreted for R. F.

7 mo. 20. We yesterday visited eight families, I hope not without Divine assistance; for, without this, nothing of the kind can be properly performed. Our friends understand French but imperfectly,* which is a great difficulty. Congénies reminds me of the houses of the poor at Potterne.

21. Four laborious visits, in which I think I was more sensible than ever before of the help of the Holy Spirit. While we were at supper, Lydia M. discovered a beautiful large scorpion on the wall.

26. We came to Nismes, where we wait for Louis Majolier. I can scarcely express the love that I feel for him and his family, nor the earnestness of my desire for their happiness; and that, by submission to the operation of the Lord's power, they may become instruments of good to those who surround them."

TO JOHN C.

"*Nismes*, 27, 7 mo. 1824.

My dear Brother,—On reaching Congénies we found it was supposed unlikely that we could have more than three family visits in a day, as most of the

* A *patois*, or provincial dialect, is generally spoken.

Friends were very busy, and others gone to the fair at Beaucaire; however, perseverance has overcome all impediments. On fourth-day we sat with Louis Majolier and family, which was what some persons might call a memorable opportunity. Before we left, we also had an affecting time, which I trust and believe was a right close to our visit to these interesting people. Some part of the time, my sufferings of mind were great, and I believe that dear R. Fowler felt as much. He was also unwell, which made him very weak. The musquitoes obliged me to pass many sleepless hours; sometimes with the heat I was kept awake nearly all the night. It is, however, a satisfaction to me to believe that some of the mental feelings were preparatory baptisms. I have delivered sixty or seventy public and private addresses; and, when I reflect on it, I can hardly think how I ventured with so imperfect a knowledge of French; but necessity has no law. If thou incline to write, which would be delightful to me, direct to St. Etienne. When we left Congénies, there were twelve or fourteen Friends to see us off, and as many other persons; some of the Friends weeping. It was a new scene to me.

Paris, 17, 8 mo. 1824.

We are again in this metropolis, after an absence of about five weeks, during which time I have seen much, and felt much; and, although seasons of great spiritual favour have not been frequently dispensed, I think we can reverently acknowledge that, from time to time, so much has been granted as to animate us with

the belief that we have been in the way of our duty; and a hope attends me that the right thing in some minds has been strengthened. Under these feelings I cannot but be thankful, although the relief is not so complete as I could desire. What the cause may be I must leave. Having endeavoured to do my best, I ought to be content with the portion of relief allowed me. We have passed through a wonderful country in Les Cevennes, etc. Thou wouldst much have enjoyed the scenery.

Paris, 8 mo. 19. We arrived on the 16th, and found Samuel Tuke and his sister at our hotel. This morning I have been with S. Tuke, to see the Abbé Grégoire. He conversed with us, in a very interesting manner, for two hours; and informed us, that when his consent to the execution of Louis XVI. was asked, he conscientiously refused to give it. Robert Fowler and I called on Sigismund Billing, who is much discouraged because the nation so evidently retrogrades; the liberty of the press, etc., being denied.

21. We called on the Abbé Gaussiére; a liberal man, who spoke gratefully of the kindness of the English to him and the other French refugees. Lord Arundel's son is his pupil.

23rd. We left Paris."

During these travels in France, Samuel Capper was brought into deep feeling and distress of mind, on account of the thraldom in which the people were held by the influence of Popery; and he earnestly desired their deliverance. In after days he was induced to

devote much time to the examination and publication of the doctrines of the Roman Catholics, in the hope that this might be the means of opening the eyes of some of them, as he considered that they were purposely kept in ignorance. His interest for them continued unabated to the last days of his life; and he was careful to avail himself of every suitable opportunity of exposing the priestcraft which is so largely exercised over the people, and which has such an awful tendency to blind and mislead.

His dear friend Robert Fowler declined in health after his return home, and peacefully departed this life 27, 4 mo. 1825, at his own house.

CHAPTER IV.

1825—1829.

ENGAGED IN PUTTING DOWN THE PRACTICE OF BULL-BAITING IN THE CITY OF BRISTOL—VISITS HIS RELATIONS IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND, IN A SOCIAL WAY—UNITES WITH OTHERS IN A RELIGIOUS VISIT TO THE FAMILIES OF FRIENDS IN BRISTOL—LABOURS FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF A PUBLIC MASQUERADE.

In the spring of 1825 Samuel Capper thus writes:—

"*London*, 28, 5 mo. 1825.

My dear Sister,—I have nothing to say of the yearly meeting but what will be better related, *vivâ voce*, by some one who has been present. I must therefore tell thee, as that which I know will interest thee, that I have been favoured to partake of much tenderness of spirit in the course of its sittings, and I hope that I shall return home not a little comforted and strengthened. Some peculiar exercises have been allotted me, and I have found peace in resigning myself to them."

During this year he was engaged, in company with another Friend, in opposing the cruel custom of bull-baiting in the city of Bristol. In the prosecution of their benevolent design, they were exposed to danger and insult, but their efforts were blessed to the entire suppression of the degrading practice.

TWO EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM RACHEL FOWLER TO S. C.

"*Near Melksham*, 22, 4 mo. 1826.

My dear Friend,—Thy kind mark of sympathy and interest was truly acceptable to us. We feel very grateful for thy friendship, and most sincerely desire that nothing may ever lessen the affectionate concern in each other's welfare, which has, I believe, been mutually felt for many past years. Respecting myself, I cannot look far forward; but, as thou loved and honoured their revered father, I feel comfort in believing that, when I may no longer experience the conflicts of time, my beloved children may have the privilege of having thee for their friend.

Elm Grove, 10, 7 mo. 1826.

My dear Friend,—I felt a degree of disappointment which I cannot readily express when I found that thy brotherly and Christian interest had not influenced thee, as in former years, to meet thy old friends at our little quarterly meeting at Frenchay; but I am not willing to think that thy good will is lessened toward a poor little meeting by thy residence in a large one. However, setting aside all geographical distinctions, I know we have but one common interest, and I feel assured that thy love for the blessed cause of truth and righteousness remains unchanged. Under all circumstances I can, with sincerity, subscribe myself thy affectionate friend, Rachel Fowler."

S. C. TO K. B.

"*Bristol*, 21, 8 mo. 1826.

My dear Sister,—I regret that I have never been able to spend any time in the North, but I see

no prospect of such an indulgence at present. Things here have both an encouraging and a disheartening aspect. Many of the middle-aged and of the youth among us are, I believe, deepening in religious experience, and becoming more and more conformed to the image of their Lord and Saviour; at the same time, our valiants are less and less called into the field of combat, and the weight of affairs seems to be sliding from their shoulders on to another class. I am learning German, and can read the Bible in it tolerably well."

His desire to visit the north of England was gratified not very long after he had thus expressed it; he, his wife, and two eldest children going to see their relations there about the end of 1827. Soon after their return home, he writes:—

"*Bristol*, 22, 4 mo. 1828.

MY DEAR SISTER,—I have been obliged to pay close attention to business; and, about a month since, our eight younger children sickened with the measles. They are now recovering, and we ourselves have been favoured with health. I believe that our northern journey very much prepared us for exertion and trial. We have, of late, had the company of J. and M. Yardley, which was very interesting. They bear the mark of discipleship. I feel much love for the Friends in the North, since our little visit there.

Bristol, 25, 2 mo. 1829.

MY DEAR BROTHER JOHN,—I should not like to omit informing thee that I am just entering upon one

of those arduous and baptizing engagements which require careful attention to the unerring Guide, in order to proceed safely. T. and S. Bigg, Hannah Thomas, and myself, have obtained the concurrence of our monthly meeting to pay a family visit here.

Bristol, 15, 3 mo. 1829.

We have had about eighty-five sittings; probably one-third of the whole number. I do not know that, in a general way, it is well to say anything about our feelings, under such circumstances; but I am inclined to tell thee that I have, in a peculiar manner, to walk in a way that I know not; as I seldom see far before me, but am obliged to go from one stepping stone to another with great care: yet I must acknowledge that I have hitherto been enabled to go along nearly free from condemnation, which is a great favour. I trust it will be continued to the end.

Bristol, 13, 4 mo. 1829.

I felt really grateful for thy kind expression of sympathy with me. We have just paid the last visit, and have been favoured to proceed in much harmony. It is a great relief to my mind; as I have had it in prospect for several years."

Notwithstanding that he was thus closely engaged in religious labours, he was brought under so much concern on account of the demoralizing tendency of a masquerade which was held during the Bristol fair, and which was attended with much drinking and profligacy, that he, with the kind assistance of several other Friends, entered upon a series of efforts for its

suppression. They had to endure much that was painful to the feelings, but their perseverance was rewarded, after some years, by its being declared a nuisance, and in consequence given up.

Samuel Capper could also find leisure to sympathize with his near connexions who were in sorrow, as evinced by the following, addressed to J. and K. B. at Vevay, in Switzerland:—

"*Bristol*, 12, 7 mo. 1829.

My dear Brother and Sister,—We have deeply sympathized with you under the trial which has terminated the earthly pilgrimage of one to whom your hearts were so closely united. To be placed in your circumstances is that which, I believe, few can appreciate. I may be more able than some to enter into your situation, in the loss, at such a distance from home, of a sweet, interesting, religious child. I trust that, as regards her, all is well; I might say, I doubt not it is so. To you, the stroke must be intended in mercy, and I sincerely desire that the gracious design may be fully answered. I cannot but believe, and it is a cheering belief, that so long as the Lord's will is not opposed in the soul, He is carrying on his own great work there, to the perfecting of the saints. How much there is in us which requires his sanctifying power, to reduce, and bring into captivity to the Spirit of Christ; and how favourable are times of affliction for the perception of our wants in this respect! These seasons seem to strip off all unhallowed coverings; and we may truly bless and magnify the name of our Redeemer that thus we are dealt with."

CHAPTER V.

1829—1834.

MUCH TRIED IN HIS BUSINESS ENGAGEMENTS—LABOURS IN THE CAUSE OF TEMPERANCE—TRAVELS IN WILTSHIRE—ATTENDS THE YEARLY MEETING—HOLDS HIS FIRST TENT-MEETING.

AFFLICTION, though of a different nature, was soon to visit him; and under it he sought, and found, through fervent prayer, the help which he needed. He writes to his brother John, respecting his trials from difficulties in carrying on his business:—

"*Bristol*, 25, 10 mo. 1829.

MY VERY DEAR BROTHER,—Thy affectionate letter reached me yesterday. I believe that suffering has brought us into a state of great humiliation, and that such a state is likely to be beneficial. I trust that I have learnt something of earnestness in prayer; a precious lesson, worth a great deal of suffering; yet I can say little more than the thief formerly, 'Lord! remember me;' and a degree of trust arises that he will remember me and mine, in his own time. Our dear young men require encouragement and sympathy, for they have been very diligent and industrious. My wife is wonderfully supported, and all seem willing to adopt any mode of proceeding which may be recommended."

S. C. TO J. AND K. B. AT NAPLES.

"*Bristol*, 4, 2 mo. 1830.

My dear Brother and Sister,—We are truly thankful for the sympathy and kindness expressed in your letter. I am willing to believe that my present circumstances are good for me, and to accept them as needful discipline. Whether it may please the Lord to relieve us from our solicitude I know not, but I confide in Him, that, if He should not, strength will be afforded in proportion to the intensity and duration of the trial.

18th. Since I wrote this, such has been the succession of events that I have not been able to resume my pen:—one is the departure of our eldest son for Barbadoes; the inducement was to accompany, and render service to, our cousin Edmund Naish. So important a step was not taken without much solicitude on our parts, and our prayers follow them."

DIARY.

"1830, 2 mo. 8. My mind has dwelt much in a state of deep poverty, of late, and in a sense that the untowardness of my outward affairs is a dispensation needful for my purification. I do not feel condemnation for the step* which has placed me in this difficult situation, but am enabled to believe it was a right step, and that it will be productive of good to me and to my family. I desire to be preserved in humble, quiet confidence in the mercy and goodness

* Namely, the quitting of his former business and entering upon a fresh one.

of Christ Jesus our Lord, and to thank God that He is pleased to keep me in an habitual state of prayer, and seeking for His strength.

4. I hope I still continue to feel humbled at chastisement, but not disheartened; and a degree of thankfulness because the Lord's hand is turned upon my children, to bring them into subjection to His purifying power.

8. A good deal discouraged about business, and tried by the illness of dear little Thomas. During the night, had some consoling views of the mercy and love of God.

First-day. Awoke under impressions of the love and condescension of God to us; a comforting feeling of His care and providence prevailed for some time.

6 mo. 3. Joseph returned from the West Indies.

10 mo. 9. Went to Bideford, and Barnstaple.

10. Barnstaple meeting was, I believe, a good time; I feel very thankful for it.

10 mo. 25. Left Devonshire. Although I have enjoyed a comfortable share of health during this journey, I have certainly found little inclination for food. I do not know that this indicates my change; but, if it should unexpectedly occur, I write this, that my dear wife and children may know that, during great part of the time, I have had an awful sense of my own sinfulness and unworthiness, with a humbling hope that, through Christ Jesus, I may be made partaker of God's salvation. Though sensible of great solicitude about my outward concerns, and desirous of being found discharging my duty in this

respect, yet my mind has been in a very solemn frame; and a disposition to continual prayer, even vocally, has been felt; for which I thank my God, even Christ Jesus my Lord, who is over all, God blessed for ever. If this dispensation should pass away, and I still remain here, Lord, enable me to do and suffer thy blessed will, that I may be made a partaker of thy holiness, which is what I long for. My heart praises thee, O my God! and my eyes run down with tears of tenderness."

TO I. AND K. B.

"*Bristol*, 1, 12 mo. 1830.

My dear Brother and Sister,—The subject of our petitions is, that we may be rightly directed as to our conduct, and that we may cherish dispositions of humility, submission, meekness, and patience. After all, notwithstanding it is our duty to do all we can to provide a reasonable establishment for our children, yet, if *we* are not permitted to succeed, we must not conclude that, to a future generation, the tide will not turn; and we may hope that the lessons of adversity may be blessed. And, were we sure that calamities of this sort would follow, one upon another, to the latest period of our lives, what right have we to complain, when we think of the glorious sufferers in various ages, for their faithfulness to the Christian profession? True, we have not, apparently, so imposing a motive to fortitude, and we ought, or at least I ought, to consider much of what I now labour under as possibly the result of a want of sufficiently

strict adherence to Divine direction; but it is an inestimable blessing that I am not oppressed by a sense of guilt, or a feeling as if these were dispensations of displeasure. And what can we do better than, quietly and fully, resign ourselves to be operated upon by Divine wisdom and love, and diligently endeavour to discharge, with cheerfulness, the arduous duties which devolve upon us? We have been greatly favoured; and, should we receive grace, and be enabled to act under its influence, in these difficulties, I trust all will yet be well. With sincere affection, S. C."

Great as were his trials at this time, he could still give his attention to that which he thought calculated to promote the good of his fellow-creatures, as appears by the following, addressed to his brother:—

"*Bristol*, 23, 8 mo. 1831.

. . . . . When we received the pamphlet, 'To the Industrious Poor,' before we knew the author, I was requested, by the Committee of our Temperance Society, to adapt it to working people with good income. I accordingly made some alterations with that view; I have also made a more important alteration, with the intention of placing in a stronger light the absolute necessity for entire and *immediate* abstinence, to correct drunken habits. If thou would like it, we will send the manuscript for thy perusal.

Newbury, 10, 10 mo. 1831.

My dear John,—Thy few lines were very acceptable; I had longed to hear from thee, although I

knew how fully, and I believe usefully, thou hast been occupied. I have considered it right to use such endeavours as I could to forward the views of the Temperance Society. Of its importance I think I daily become more sensible. I sincerely congratulate thee on the success of your efforts. I know of no temptation, to which man is subject, so likely to intercept the light of truth as the habitual use of intoxicating liquors; and I am persuaded that there is not an emancipation which bestows a greater blessing, in a temporal sense, than the emancipation from the supposed necessity of using alcoholic stimulus. With regard to our affairs, I hope thou wilt make thyself more easy. This life is a scene of perplexity; the course, through all, is simple and safe—that is, to do one's best, with perfect integrity of mind. What we earnestly desire is, that we may not be permitted to bring dishonour on the gospel, nor to pain the minds of the true followers of the Lamb. I wish thee to consider me (as is really the case), notwithstanding my difficulties, favoured with calmness and contentment. Thy affectionate brother."

DIARY.

"1831, 11 mo. 22. At the monthly meeting, I obtained leave to go on a religious visit into Wiltshire. Certificates of membership were also given to Benjamin and H. Thomas, George Eaton, and Rebecca Capper, about to visit the West Indies on account of health.

23. At Bath, on my way to Devizes and Potterne.

27. A public meeting at Potterne.

1832, 2 mo. 12. Stephen Grellet and Wm. Allen were at our meeting. W. Allen spoke impressively on the simplicity of the faith of the gospel, and on the danger of rejecting the gospel from a reliance upon our own understanding. S. Grellet gave an awful description of approaching troubles and judgments; he emphatically exhorted to a preparation for such a time, by a submission to the power of the Spirit, and by building on Christ, the sure Foundation.

2 mo. 16. We heard, from Nevis, of dear B. Thomas's death.

Bristol, 4, 5 mo. 1832.

My dear Brother John,—The voyagers have reached their respective homes, and are full of interesting information. It is gratifying to see our dear friend, H. Thomas, notwithstanding her bereavement, so much improved by the voyage. We think, too, that Rebecca is not the worse for her residence abroad, which has had a great tendency to enhance the value of home, and the privileges enjoyed in this country."

To two of his daughters, slipped under their bedroom door:—

"30, 3 mo. 1833.

My dear Girls,—I believe you are often made sensible of the love of God in your hearts, and that, under its influence, you are frequently desirous of becoming disciples of the meek and lowly Jesus. I rejoice in this belief, and earnestly pray that the work may be carried on. There is one lesson which it is difficult to learn, and which we often see is imperfectly

acquired, even by advanced Christians; it is the subjection of the will, and complete forbearance toward what we apprehend is the weakness of others, but which, if we were sufficiently calm dispassionately to examine, we should often find was our own weakness—or at least a mixture of our own and that of others. I do very much desire that you may be preserved in meekness and forbearance, and thus may grow in grace, and your conduct tend to the preservation of peace, love, and harmony around you; not, however, yielding to wrong things for the sake of temporary ease, but being ready to suffer inconvenience in little matters, that you may not ruffle the tranquillity of others or yourselves. I am, your affectionate father, S. C."

Samuel Capper attended the yearly meeting; and afterwards wrote the following to his brother and sister, W. and F. Naish:—

"*Bristol*, 28, 6 mo. 1833.

My dear Brother and Sister,—It was rather a painful determination that I could not prudently visit you; but going to the yearly meeting presented itself to my mind a good deal in the shape of a duty that I could not well put by. I would not, however, have you suppose that I did much when there, but I can truly say that I suffered much. I am grieved to see how some are substituting the letter for the spirit; arguing on a variety of matters about which the most learned are as ignorant as the most unlearned, except so far as it pleases our heavenly Father to reveal them to the babes in Christ. I believe it behoves us all to

be deeply watchful, lest we be drawn into any speculative views of right things, or into party spirit in contending for the faith as held by the apostles and early disciples; and, since that time, in a great degree of purity, by the members of our Society."

DIARY.

"1834, 3 mo. 24. My mind has been much impressed lately, with a peculiar sense of death; the feeling of its awfulness, and even entering into the sensations of the body, though I do believe that few are in better health than myself. Does it portend, or is it to prepare me for, some close affliction; or is it for my own preparation for death? Whatever the design, I desire that it may be fully answered.

5 mo. 17. Came to London, with my E. C., to attend the yearly meeting.

19. At that for ministers and elders, missed some of our able and worthy members.

20. At the Anniversary Temperance Meeting. The bishop of Winchester in the chair. On the whole, satisfactory.

21. Our American friends are making great exertions to procure a liberal education for their youth. An excellent object; yet to be pursued with a proper estimate of its value, or it may lead into too high a regard for the knowledge thus to be acquired, and into a disregard of the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

22. It was a very solemn part of the meeting when the testimony respecting our late dear friend Rachel Fowler was read; and I was introduced into

considerable exercise of mind, in regard to many who still remain in this state of trial and temptation; and especially on my own account.

23. Went to Gracechurch-street meeting, in which Stephen Grellet was very beautifully engaged on the whole gospel of Christ.

5 mo. 25. First-day. In the present circumstances of our Society, there is great danger of party feeling; and I pray that those who are favoured, amid these conflicts, to keep their standing on Christ, the immovable Rock, may not be sorely wounded by an endeavour, in their own wills, to resist the blast.

28. J. J. Gurney made some striking remarks on the subject of bringing our testimony against war home to our minds; and also on the influence which we ought to use among the poor and degraded of our population.

30. A solemn concluding sitting.

6 mo. 20. Edward Kidd, jun., and Rebecca Capper, were married.

7 mo. 28. Quite fatigued with business; but calm under difficulties."

Notwithstanding these commercial trials, Samuel Capper yielded to the belief that he must labour among the poor during the summer; and thus writes on the subject to John C.:—

"*Bristol*, 20, 10 mo. 1834.

My very dear Brother,—From some conversation which thou and I had, I think thou wilt not be surprised to hear that I applied to our last monthly

meeting for its sanction to my holding a few meetings with the most neglected and destitute portion of the people. This was granted, and a meeting was held yesterday week, in a large workshop. I believe it was a satisfactory occasion, as was also one held under a tent yesterday, in the Dings. Many hundreds were there, and were very orderly, though it was thought that numbers of them had rarely been in a place of worship. It is intended to hold another next first-day. The engagement is a very awful one to me; but hitherto we have been wonderfully helped, and the people appear to be really thankful for such opportunities."

This letter contains the first notice of a tent-meeting. It was afterwards found, that to convene the people in a tent, pitched in any suitable locality, was one of the best ways of procuring access to the lowest and most degraded; the class of his fellow-creatures to whom Samuel Capper's mind was particularly attracted, with the desire to arouse their attention to the interests of their souls. His friends, therefore, kindly purchased a tent for his use.

Samuel Capper was, about this time, extricated from the difficulties with which he had long had to contend, and became temporarily engaged in a well-established commercial house in Bristol.

CHAPTER VI.

1834—1838.

TRAVELS ON BUSINESS IN IRELAND—ATTENDS THE YEARLY MEETING THERE AND IN LONDON—HOLDS TENT-MEETINGS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF BRISTOL, BATH, ETC.—DEATH OF HIS DAUGHTER REBECCA KIDD—HOLDS MEETINGS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE—DEATH OF EDWARD KIDD, JUN., AND TWO OF HIS CHILDREN—HOLDS TENT-MEETINGS IN LONDON.

DURING the autumn of this year, accompanied by one of his sons, he travelled extensively in Ireland on business, and was there, as during his continental journey, brought into much feeling on account of the sad effects of Popery on its deluded adherents. He also mourned over the effects of what he denominated "whisky madness." He writes to his wife from

"*Waterford*, 1, 12 mo. 1834.

. . . . Everywhere they are wonderfully improving the roads; and, if distillation were prohibited, I see no reason why this should not be one of the finest and most prosperous parts of the united kingdom.

Cork, 13th. I have had the opportunity of a little conversation with one or two Roman Catholics, and ascertained that they are held in the very bondage of ignorance and superstition.

21st. I have bought 'The Poor Man's Manual,' and 'The Key of Paradise.' Surely the popish clergy will have much to answer for, on account of the follies, not to say blasphemies, which such books contain!

Limerick, 8, 1 mo. 1835.

. . . . I have been a little rheumatic since the sharp frosts; but, when I see hundreds walking about barefoot, and behold the cabins which they inhabit, one dare hardly even mention such slight inconveniences. I sometimes feel as if I could almost lay down my life to free them from the chains of idolatry, which still produces the same effects that are so affectingly described by the prophets.

Milford, 24th.

. . . . I saw in the Bristol paper an account of the death of our dear young friend Wilson Wright. I have seldom been more affected than at so unexpected and awful an event, and my mind visited, with affectionate solicitude, his dear bereaved parents. We know not, by experience, what such a trial is; but I can enter into close sympathy. I much desire to be present at the interment. It is pleasant to me to recur to two or three little interviews with Wilson, when I thought I was sensible of the secret exercise of his mind, that he might be preserved from evil."

Samuel Capper, though so fully prepared to sympathize in the sorrows of his friends, had not then, as he states, been called to endure similar privations; but this was subsequently, in rather a remarkable manner, his allotment; for, besides an unmarried adult son, he followed to the grave three married children and their partners in life; and had to care for some of the orphans as long as he lived.

The loss of his children he deeply felt; but he and

his dear wife were supported under it, in true Christian resignation, and could acknowledge that the Lord doeth all things well.

In the spring of 1835, Samuel Capper attended the yearly meeting in Dublin, where he made the following memoranda:—

"4 mo. 26. First-day. I felt called upon, in meeting, to address several states. John Warren followed on the same subjects; and, in the course of his testimony, beautifully displayed the mercy of God, in Christ, in the propitiatory sacrifice. He also set forth the quickening, baptizing power of the Holy Spirit, and insisted on the necessity of devoted obedience to the teachings of the Spirit.

4 mo. 28. The state of the Society, as elicited by the answers to the Queries, brought forth some excellent advice, and warm expostulation with those who have been, and still are, the objects of the invitations of Him who hath manifested his love, in that he hath given *Himself* for us. I felt it right to make some remarks on what appears to me the present extension of tendering visitation to many, especially among the young; and to recommend a deep and fervent labour after an establishment on Christ; in order that those who have been thus graciously dealt with may be prepared for usefulness, and may stand in a day of trial and distress, which is, I believe, at hand.

29. John Warren was largely exercised, both in testimony and supplication; his services were very lively and impressive. My mind is filled with the belief that the gracious Shepherd of the flock is offer-

ing his Divine protection, and that many will, and some have, come near to be taught of Him. Oh! the day of calamity will drive some to Him for safety who, if they would give up now, might be favoured to remain, with confidence, in the 'munition of rocks' until the calamity be overpast.

5 mo. 2. Dr. Hancock breakfasted with us; his company was truly delightful.

3. First-day. Walked to Kingstown, and had laborious and searching service. How much real satisfaction those lose who are not willing to let Christ reign! They are, in consequence, the subjects of a tyrant indeed. I hope I was in my place, but it has been a trying day. Returned by railway.

5. Sailed for Holyhead."

He was also this year at the yearly meeting in London, and, while there, wrote to a friend in Ireland:

"*London*, 21, 5 mo. 1835.

. . . . . I believe that thy mind is often exercised that thou mayst be found filling up thy place, according to the will of Him whom thou desirest to serve. My heart has rejoiced in this belief, and my secret prayers have arisen for thy preservation and growth. I believe, my dear friend, that the manifestation of the Lord's will is, when duly waited for, very distinct; and that He condescends to discover to us the way in which we should walk, in matters which to some may appear almost exclusively of this world. The particular desire which now arises in my mind is, that thou mayst be kept, by His power, faithfully devoted in all

things; waiting to know His blessed will; and, without being turned out of the way by others, given up to do it; and I am persuaded that, notwithstanding the trials which are the needful attendants of every Christian, thou wilt know great joy and peace in following the lowly Jesus, the Captain of our salvation; and that He will conspicuously own thee as his friend, by showing thee the glories of his kingdom. 'Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.'"

Again this summer he held many public meetings near Bristol, Kingswood, etc.

In his diary, he writes, on the opening of another year:—

"1836, 1 mo. 9. I have been particularly impressed with a sense of the extraordinary prevalence of Divine influence in our silent meetings. I think we shall have less preaching, on account of the unsatisfied state of the people, and I trust a more deep ministry, when it is exercised."

TO HIS SISTER, F. NAISH.

"*Bristol*, 13, 2 mo. 1836.

My dear Sister,—I have often thought of writing to thee or my brother, and put it off; but the perusal of thy last letter to A. determined me to write, lest either of you should admit the sentiment that we had suffered our regard for you to diminish. Some circumstances strongly tend to concentrate it. Our circle of *acquaintance* undoubtedly widens as we approach old age, but the band of *intimate friends* does not widen with it; some, among our former intimates, have

grown rich, and we (without imputing blame to them), by having grown poor, are necessarily placed at a distance; no doubt, very properly and salutarily for us. Some have become great, and no longer need our humble assistance; and, though we cannot complain, for they are still kind, and when occasion requires condescending, yet the tenderness of that friendship, which perhaps requires the atmosphere of affliction to thrive in, has abated—we will not say, gone. Some have abandoned the sound and simple views of gospel truth which we early embraced; which we have found to be on the true foundation, that has stood the storms of time, and still remains unshaken. We love them, and our hearts yearn over them, but we dare not follow them. Thus are our intimate friends cut off from us; but, among the few who remain, we esteem you of the chiefest. Your path has been hallowed by deep trials, and if just now is permitted a lulling of the elements, you enjoy it with gratitude and chastened gladness. We wish to do so too; for, though we have yet many sources of solicitude, we are somewhat freed from that perplexing anxiety which attended us for years. Thy affectionate brother, S. C."

DIARY.

"1836, 5 mo. 14. Went to London, to attend the yearly meeting.

5 mo. 16. The meeting of ministers and elders was opened by a solemn communication from Sarah Grubb, encouraging those who had come up with hearts turned to the Lord, and looking singly to Him,

to put their confidence in Him. In the afternoon, Wm. Forster gave a beautiful exposition of true gospel ministry, and of his belief in the guidance of the Spirit, and in the inefficacy of words without the power of God, the Anointing, to baptize and contrite.

17. J. and H. C. Backhouse gave an account of their visit in America: it was weighty, and bore ample testimony to the immediate guidance of the Spirit.

22. First-day. Wm. Forster spoke powerfully in Tottenham meeting.

25. At the Peel meeting, my mind was comforted and strengthened by a sense of the unchangeableness of God and of the truth; and also by a precious uniting feeling of Divine regard. Abigail Dockray, Barnard Dickenson, etc., spoke in a strain of harmonious feeling.

5 mo. 26. H. C. Backhouse and Abigail Dockray visited our meeting, and the former was favoured to deliver one of the most complete and beautiful gospel sermons that I ever heard.

28. The yearly meeting concluded solemnly, though, throughout, the Divine presence has been more felt as a shield than as a sword."

Eighteen public meetings were held, near Bristol, during the summer.

TO HIS AUNT, MARY CAPPER.

"*Bristol*, 29, 10 mo. 1836.

My dear Aunt,—Although we have not yet expressed our sympathy with thee, in thy indisposition and its accompanying depression, my wife and I have

thought much of thee. We know something of these feelings; and are thus somewhat prepared to enter into the sense of entire dependence which, under such circumstances, is realized; as well as that of unworthiness, and of actually deserving such probations and much more. We can, my dear aunt, feel all this; and, at the same time, when through Divine favour we are not so tried, we can see the wisdom of the dispensation; the cause that we have to praise the Lord for thus dealing with us; and we dare venture to believe that, when He has tried thee and proved thy love to Him, thou wilt be blest with a sense of his Divine presence; and in proportion as thou hast seen the depths of *thy own* poverty, wilt thou rejoice in *His* riches.

Do not, my dear aunt, suppose that we imagine our experience to be of the same measure as thine: oh no; we think that it has been of the same nature, and of a degree apportioned to our child-like state; yet do we feel as if we might say how much we have felt for thee, and how sincerely we desire—sometimes pray—that thy head may be lifted above the billows. Thou hast had large experience of the love and goodness of the Good Shepherd of the flock; and we trust that thou wilt be preserved in patience, possessing thy soul's confidence in Him, until the time come when, having drunk the cup appointed thee, thou art made partaker of His peace, which passeth understanding. Though we are thy juniors, we feel ourselves approaching the confines of time, and are favoured to look upon its concerns as of secondary importance; as if

we were likely, at a period not distant, to leave our children and friends, and to enter on that state of existence which is beyond the grave; and we earnestly desire that we may be favoured to join those who have already passed from this state of trial, in singing praises to Him who has purchased us, and who, when we are unclothed of *our* righteousness, will clothe us with His own."

In the spring of 1837 he held some public meetings in Bath. He remarks in his diary:—

"1837, 3 mo. 26. A very solemn and favoured one in Avon Street. I think I felt too much at liberty afterwards, and perhaps a little inclined to presume on the help afforded. I long to be preserved in true humility.

28. Quarterly meeting at Melksham. I had a very satisfactory interview with George Withy, who said that he felt very peaceful, and looked forward without fear. In allusion to the attacks made upon our Society, he said, 'It is many years since I received the truth, as held by Friends, and from a belief therein I have never swerved; nor am I at all shaken now."

S. C. writes to his youngest child, then at school:—

"*Bristol*, 5, 4 mo. 1837.

My dear Thomas,—Thy kind and well-written letter gave me much pleasure; it shows a desire to make progress in thy learning, in which I believe thy brother partakes. It is an advantage which youth

cannot sufficiently estimate, to be well grounded in elementary learning. Thou desirest some information about the Total Abstinence Society. Last seventh-day I heard James Teare make a very interesting speech. There are now about three thousand members in Bristol. It will be delightful to me to see you making good solid progress in your learning; and still greater pleasure shall I derive from your conducting yourselves in a way which would lead me to believe that you are truly desirous of avoiding all evil. You cannot do this of yourselves, and I wish you may be sensible how necessary it is for us all to have strength given us by Him who is all-powerful, and which He has promised to us, if we sincerely pray for it. To conduct yourselves consistently with what you think is right, will often introduce you into considerable trial. Foolish boys, and men too, often laugh at what they think is unnecessary particularity; but, if we are induced to deviate from that which is right in little things, it soon leads to our disregarding it in greater ones. Thy affectionate Father."

It was during this summer that Samuel Capper was first called to endure the affliction of losing an adult child, by the death of his daughter Rebecca Kidd, which he most acutely felt. Particulars of this affecting event, and of the death soon afterwards of her husband and two children, are already before the public, in a small work entitled "Youthful Pilgrims;" * so that it is only needful here to say that her father

* W. and F. G. Cash, London.

submitted to the bereavement in a truly Christian spirit, and could even rejoice in the midst of his deep sorrow, from a sense of the redeeming mercy extended to his beloved ones. He alludes to the subject in the following letter to his youngest son:—

"*Bristol*, 10, 8 mo. 1837.

My dear Thomas,—I was disappointed to find that thou hadst gone to school without my taking leave of thee; I think, however, that thy mother acted wisely, and am well pleased that thou art there. Perhaps thou wilt not find it so agreeable as when thy brother was with thee; and I shall be pleased to find that thou art disposed to make thyself comfortable, even when things are not exactly as thou mightst wish. Thou wilt find, as those who are older have already found, that it has been wisely ordered that we should have enough, attending our course through life, of the disagreeable, to induce us to be continually looking forward to a better state of being; as the poet John Scott says—

'Enough has Heaven indulged of bliss below,
To tempt our tarriance in this lov'd retreat;
Enough has Heaven ordained of useful woe,
To make us languish for a happier seat!'

We, my dear Thomas, have had a fresh and very interesting exemplification of the truth of these lines, in the instructive and affecting death of thy dear sister Rebecca Kidd. I hope neither thou nor I shall ever forget how delightfully her confidence was fixed on the great mercy and love of God, in Christ Jesus, to her soul; and let us, at the same time, remember how

careful she was to fulfil her duties, and to act consistently with the simplicity and purity of the principles of Friends. The nearer she drew to the close of all things here, the more attached she felt to the gospel simplicity of the practices of consistent Friends. In the present day, when it seems to be the custom to make light of the particular views of our Society, and for those who have scarcely made any effort to do right to despise those who *have*, such an example, in a young woman of superior understanding, ought not to be lost upon us. Let us learn of her that very important lesson, which none who are sensible of Divine regard toward them are too young to practise —to live near to Christ. I believe, my dear Thomas, that thou art favoured with the teachings of his Spirit in thy heart; reproving thee for that which is wrong and sinful, and pointing out to thee that which is right, and which will produce peace. Let us be attentive to these Divine admonitions; as dear Rebecca expressed it, 'Let our conduct be more circumspect; let us live near to our Saviour,' that is, to the dictates of his Holy Spirit; waiting in quiet, day by day, to know *His* will, to subdue *our* wills. . . .

Bristol, 17, 8 mo. 1837.

My dear Thomas,—Thy letter was very pleasant to us, and we are glad to find that thou thinkst seriously of the importance of avoiding temptations. On this point, I wish to say that we commonly are prone to imagine that, in other circumstances than those in which we are placed, we should have less trial. The

truth is, that in every situation, if we would preserve an easy conscience, we must expect to be obliged to bear the cross, in order to maintain a right course among those who pursue a different one: and, to be enabled to do this, earnest and continual prayer will be needful; we cannot preserve ourselves from evil."

Samuel Capper held many meetings in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire this year.

TO THE SAME (STILL AT SCHOOL).

"*Bristol*, 7, 2 mo. 1838.

MY DEAR TOM,—I have felt a wish to write to thee for some days, but have been prevented by my occupations. I have thought seriously on the great disadvantage which it may be to thee to allow thyself to entertain an estimate of the character of thy teacher which places him in an objectionable point of view in thy mind. I think that any dislike, which we permit ourselves to harbour against any person, generally grows until we are impressed with it far beyond the reality; and, in this case, it would operate to prevent thee from receiving all the benefit which thou mightst do in thy education; whilst, on the other hand, *if* thou wast (or, I hope I may say *art*) disposed to derive all the advantage thou canst, and to regard *as little inconveniences*, which is the true light in which they should be viewed, those troubles which at present annoy thee, at a future day thou wilt be reaping the benefit of the knowledge which thou hast acquired, when the things that now incommode thee are all forgotten. In cases of unpleasant feeling between parties,

there are generally those, even among boys, who are willing to aggravate the mischief by misrepresenting, and putting bad constructions on, the words and actions of the obnoxious person, where there might be no ground for such conclusions were the subject properly and dispassionately considered. But there is another point, of still more importance, which, however young, we ought seriously to consider; and that is, that all trying circumstances are intended, by our gracious heavenly Father, for inducing the exercise of patience, forbearance, and other virtues, which would proportionably increase. We must not, however, depend on our own fortitude to sustain us under the trials of temper to which we are subjected; if we do, whether older or younger, we shall be foiled. Our security and preservation are in a dependence on the assistance of the Holy Spirit, or grace of God, which is given to those who ask it in prayer. I believe thou art not insensible to this truth. Prayer may be offered, either in silent retirement before God, or even under circumstances of necessary bustle, by lifting up the heart to the Lord, with sincere desires to be preserved from yielding to temptation; or by the expression of the deep feelings of the mind in words—not the words of others, unless they are made our own by lively feeling at the time.

I am, my dear T., thy affectionate Father."

DIARY.

"1838, 2 mo. 13. My thoughts much engaged about going to London. I think I must endeavour,

this summer, to have some meetings in Spitalfields, St. Giles's, and other destitute parts of the city and suburbs. I wish to be willing; but I feel it the more, as I am not in such circumstances as I could desire, with respect to pecuniary matters.

2 mo. 20. A delightful silent meeting; a very merciful seal to the efficacy of *that* worship.

25. First-day. I was engaged to supplicate that pardon might be granted to those who offered strange fire, and that they might know more of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. My mind was also brought into a humbling sense of the nature of the baptisms and trials which await me in the service which I have in prospect in London.

Bristol, 11, 3 mo. 1838.

My dear Sister,—I have been desirous that thou shouldst be addressed by some other hand than mine, but our children do not appear much disposed for writing; neither, indeed, is it likely that they should be equally desirous of communicating with thee as one who has, from circumstances, so much more entered into thy feelings of trial and of enjoyment. We thank thee much for the two books [of our late father's], which we greatly value. The remembrance of our precious father is delightful to me, and I often feel that the time will not be long before I may hope to meet him, through unmerited mercy.

Affectionately, S. Capper."

His son-in-law, Edward Kidd, jun., died on the 17th of 3rd month. He was buried on the 23rd, and two of

his children on the 1st of 4th month; the four being swept away in a very short time, and one solitary orphan left. To return to S. C.'s diary, he writes:—

"1838, 5 mo. 22. The prospect of visiting London seems very awful, but not to be put off. The expectation of being again out of business is serious, but I feel that I can trust to Him who provides better than we can.

5 mo. 29. The visit to London presses upon my mind. I am discouraged by having fresh employment to seek, but calm submission prevails over all the disturbing thoughts which arise.

6 mo. 12. The monthly meeting granted me a certificate. It was a solemn time; much felt, though few spoke. Dr. Ball said all that I could desire. I do feel it to be a very serious thing; and I depend solely on Divine assistance to accomplish it."

TO HIS WIFE.

"*London*, 25, 6 mo. 1838.

My dear Elizabeth,—I arrived at Plough Court but little fatigued, and found everything most comfortable. Yesterday I took tea with Thomas Bevan and wife, and very agreeably met the veteran Samuel Rundell. I have just attended the quarterly meeting of ministers and elders. Friends expressed much sympathy with me, and seemed quite disposed to lend a helping hand in the service. I saw many whom we have long loved; namely, Elizabeth Fry, Elizabeth Dudley, Jonathan and H. C. Backhouse, William Allen, Samuel Gurney, etc."

TO A YOUNG MAN.

"*London*, 25, 6 mo. 1838.

.... I feel much solicitude for thy welfare, and it has given me some relief to find that thou hast obtained a situation. I am willing to hope that, should it not be exactly to thy mind in every particular, thou wilt endeavour to bring thy mind to it. It is possible that, in days to come, thou mayst see occasion to be thankful for those very circumstances which thou wouldst now gladly have removed. But that which chiefly presents itself to my mind, when I think of thee, is the desire I feel that thou mayst be happy—happy here and happy hereafter; and the conviction accompanies this wish that it never can be accomplished until thou art brought to hate sin; not one sin nor the other sin, but all sin; every deviation from the dictates of that pure Spirit that is, from time to time, reproving thee for the evil of thy ways. It is very humbling, I acknowledge, to feel that we are altogether unworthy of anything but condemnation; that our title to Divine mercy is the Ransom which has been paid for us; but, until we come to feel this, there is no hope of our escape from the wiles of the enemy. I think thou knowest something of the unsatisfactory nature of the service of sin, and I pray that God may open to thy view the vileness of human nature, and the rich treasury of his mercy in Christ.

With affectionate regard, S. C."

TO HIS WIFE.

"*Plough Court*, 7, 7 mo. 1838.

My dear Elizabeth,—I have been employed, with a sub-committee, in looking out a place for a meeting, and we have, I believe, fixed on a weaving shop in Quaker Street, Spitalfields. This was the site of the old Wheeler Street meeting-house, often mentioned by George Fox."

TO K. B.

"*London*, 9, 7 mo. 1838.

My dear Sister,—I thought that thou and my brother might be pleased to see, under my own hand, evidence that I am here, and getting into work, in my small way. Yesterday I dined at Plough Court, with Jonathan and H. C. Backhouse, after meeting, where the support and success of those engaged to labour in the ministry of the word were sweetly prayed for by Mary Sterry. After dinner they went to a meeting appointed for the nobility, and I to one for the poor in Spitalfields; how they fared I have not yet heard. Friends thought the meeting in Spitalfields an instructive one. George Jones took part in the labour. I believe I had just sufficient light clearly to see my way, and just enough strength to pursue it; and I now feel just such a portion of peace as induces me to believe that, however imperfect the performance may have been, it has been accepted in its sincerity. I greatly desire to be thankful for having been enabled to deliver my own soul of the burden, and that this is attended by feelings which are calculated to keep me

humble. Humility is a grace which I think I covet more than any other. You will have heard that we are likely to have the world (a short one, in all probability, to us) to begin again.—S. C.

London, 10, 7 mo. 1838.

My dear Elizabeth,—This morning I was at Southwark monthly meeting; it was a baptizing time—felt to be so, I apprehend, by most present. I then went to see the tent erected, and am now at Plough Court, waiting the time for meeting; not anxiously, but certainly under a deep sense of its importance, and in fervent prayer for a blessing.

7 mo. 11. I think upwards of a thousand attended; the freeness and simplicity of the gospel were declared, and near access was known to the throne of Him whose blessed Spirit did, I believe, in a good degree preside over us. Several kind friends were there, namely, George Stacey, Joseph Neatby, Samuel Darton, Edward Harris, Wm. Manley, etc.

13th. Yesterday I went over the St. Giles's district, and fixed on two places for meetings; one in the very nest of poor, low creatures. The smell of the streets was almost unbearable. I keep scarcely any other memoranda than these letters; so perhaps thou wilt keep them together, that we may have them to refer to.

15th. First-day. This morning I walked through Rag Fair (all busy as a week-day) to Ratcliff meeting, which was a refreshing one, both immediately and instrumentally. Many Friends were at the meeting in

the tent in Whitechapel burial-ground. It was large and satisfactory. I think the gospel was fully preached. Eliz. Jos. Fry took a share in it.

18th. Yesterday I attended Plaistow monthly meeting, dined at Joseph Fry's, and had some very interesting conversation with his wife. I did not feel quite well this morning, but have been at Peel monthly meeting, after which I came here, to the house of my kind and dear friends Thomas Bevan and wife. He has kindly given me some medicine, and I feel better. I hope one of them will go with me to the meeting in Newport Market. My prayers are fervent that, through close attention to Divine guidance, all may be kept in its right place, and the design of the great Head of the church be answered. I feel to be weakness itself; and so much the better, if He is pleased to preside.

21. I have been present at the examination of the Croydon School; a delightful sight! The children appear to be in good order, and under excellent care. I am much better, which is a great favour.

7 mo. 24. Our dear sister F. Naish arrived yesterday, and we dined at Plough Court, with Daniel Wheeler.

27. Yesterday I attended Dr. Sims's interment; it was an exercising meeting to me.

28. I cannot say but that I look forward to the meeting to-morrow, in the worst part of St. Giles's, and to one in Bloomsbury on second-day, with great solicitude. May we be favoured with wisdom and courage! for they are fearful places.

7 mo. 31. Yesterday I went to the parish officer of St. Giles's, with whom the rector happened to be; and I urged upon them the better scavenging of the part of the parish which is inhabited by the Irish. The rector and chief clerk went, with me and George Neighbour, directly into the district, and I think they will try to cleanse it better.

8 mo. 2. Yesterday I was at Gracechurch Street monthly meeting, which was a time of close exercise. I found some relief in offering prayer. I felt much stript before the meeting in Bunhill Fields, and so deserted, after sitting down in it, that I thought I had scarcely known the like before. At length, I had a gentle intimation to stand up; and doctrine did, I believe, distil as the dew upon the thirsty souls; for which I desire to praise the name of Him who alone is able to furnish with strength and wisdom.

8 mo. 4. Yesterday, at the meeting for sufferings, several interesting matters were discussed. P. Bedford was furnished with books and tracts for distribution on the Continent. Wm. Allen, Joseph Neatby, and Robert Forster were appointed to wait on Lord Morpeth respecting the Irish tithe bill. I took tea at the house of a friend named Brown, in Bishopsgate Street, where I was very pleasantly and unexpectedly joined by Samuel and Maria Fox, who attended the meeting at Friar's Mount. Maria was largely, and very acceptably engaged in it, and it ended well.

8 mo. 5. First-day. I was at Tottenham meeting,

in which I hope what was expressed was in the authority of the Spirit, and that we were favoured with access to the Fountain of light and love. Dear M. Fox had good service. I have a few more meetings in view, when I return to London; after which I hope I may be permitted to remain with you, at least for a time, and to see what we ought to do as to mundane concerns.

Thy affectionate husband."

CHAPTER VII.

1838—1841.

MARRIAGE OF ONE OF HIS DAUGHTERS—RESUMES HIS TENT-MEETINGS IN LONDON—HIS FAITH PROVED BY HAVING NO MEANS OF SUPPORTING HIS FAMILY—HOLDS MEETINGS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE, ALSO IN MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL—ILLNESS AND DEATH OF HIS SON JOHN.

THE reason of Samuel Capper's leaving his service in London unaccomplished, was that he might attend the marriage of one of his daughters, who writes thus to one of her aunts:—

"*Bristol*, 7, 8 mo. 1838.

MY DEAR AUNT,—My dear father returned home last evening, and I do not know that I ever felt more glad to see him. It has been particularly trying for him to be so much from home just now, but it does not seem right to complaim. He has held twenty-one meetings. My aunt Sarah attended many of them, and says that she would have liked to be at all of them, for her own instruction and edification, independently of the love and sympathy which she felt for my father. She says, 'I think —— would have rejoiced to hear his tender invitations to the people, and his beautiful description of the fulness and freeness of the gospel message, as well as the change of heart essential to holiness. It has been to me more delightful ministry than I have often heard.' My

father appears quite as well as we expected to see him. I hope all the family will be present on fifth-day; but the assembling of us all brings forcibly to mind the last occasion when we met, and the blank which I believe I shall always feel."

The marriage took place on the 9th, and S. Capper soon after went back to London, and resumed his labours there. When about to return home, he writes to his wife:—

"*London*, 19, 8 mo. 1838.

My dear Elizabeth,—I am truly thankful for the great and unquestionable assistance which has been graciously vouchsafed in this arduous undertaking, and I feel as if I might now retreat for awhile from active service, and attend to the concerns of this life; in which I trust we may be rightly directed.

Thine affectionately, S. Capper."

SAMUEL DARTON TO S. C.

"*Dover*, 21, 8 mo. 1838.

My dear Friend,—As I had not the opportunity of being in thy company, I avail myself of a little leisure just to say to thee, in the freedom of Christian interest, how much sympathy and unity I have felt with thee, in thy late labours of love among the poor of our great metropolis; and now that thou art favoured once more (as I trust) to reach home in safety, may true peace of mind be thy portion!

I have often felt, and do still feel, much for thee in thy outward trials and exercises; and, however un-

worthy I may be to express it, the language has often arisen on thy behalf, 'The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! the name of the God of Jacob defend thee, send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion!'

May every blessing attend thee and thine is the desire of thy affectionate friend, SAMUEL DARTON."

TO A YOUNG MAN.

"*Bristol*, 24, 9 mo. 1838.

DEAR ——, I do not apprehend that I can be of any use to thee, but I feel too much interested in thy eternal welfare not to write. It appears to me, from thy last very affectionate letter, that thou art not yet acquainted with the nature of sin. I do not indeed know whether thou admits the testimony of the Holy Scriptures as conclusive; nor whether thou feelst perfect security, in the prospect of an event which will, before long, occur to every one of us; but, whatever thy present notions are, I wish thee seriously to consider the awfulness of a mistake on this subject. Art thou always peaceful? Dost thou not find that the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, become more and more influential?—Dost thou ever wish to be delivered from their dominion? Hast thou ever resolved to resist their further encroachments? Do the discoveries of Divine light occasionally pierce thy soul, and disturb thy confidence in the safety of thy state?—and hast thou turned from these discoveries? Seriously and candidly

ask thyself these questions, and I believe that thou wilt be forced to come to the conclusion that thou canst not save thyself from the dominion of thy lusts, and that the dominion of these is sinful; that, if thou art ever delivered from them it must be by Divine power; that the guilt of sin thou canst never escape, and consequently that thou needst a Saviour. Death is certain; it may be very near. What can be more unwise than to remain in uncertainty as to our state, in prospect, after death? Hast thou ever prayed that thou mayst have the truth discovered to thee? If thou hast not, begin without delay; and I trust that then it will not be long before a different day dawns upon thy mind.

I had written thus much when I again read thy letter, and I was agreeably surprised to find in it so many expressions of a desire to be more deeply acquainted with the truth of religion; but I was also obliged to notice what thou dost not appear to have taken into view, that we shall never attain this experience unless we are willing to take up the cross and follow Christ; unless we are truly willing that He should reign in our hearts. Pray earnestly that thou mayst feel conviction for sin,—for every deviation from the path of known duty, for every unholy thought,—and it will be granted thee. Then thou wilt feel the value, as my dear Rebecca said, of that Fountain which is opened for sin and for uncleanness. And oh! let us remember the humble fortitude, the unshaken confidence, the heavenly voice of praise, with which she repeated the joyful declaration,

'Lord! I believe thou hast prepared,
Unworthy though I be,
For me a blood-bought, free reward;
A golden harp for me!'

That we may be blest with the same happy conclusion of our lives is my earnest prayer.

SAMUEL CAPPER."

DIARY.

"1831, 10 mo. 2. I am favoured with great calmness, though much tried with the prospect of re-commencing the world. I feel some assurance of Divine care over us; and something like an assurance that, if I live, I shall, by some providential means, be enabled to devote my time more to the service of Christ. I wait to see my way.

10 mo. 16. It seems desirable to record that we have had a time of close conflict; not seeing in what way, under our present difficulties, we ought to act. It drives us home, I hope, to the footstool of Divine grace. God graciously grant us to see his will, and give us strength to do it! I can say, with thankfulness, that I delight in dwelling near unto God in spirit; that, although He is pleased to keep us (*as we feel it*) long in suspense, yet I am able to confide in Him. I heartily desire that I may advance in holiness, and attain to greater simplicity, and more entire devotion to His guidance.

11 mo. 5. Still without much prospect of a provision for myself, yet I cannot but acknowledge the goodness of God, in the confidence which I feel in his protection.

11 mo. 9. I feel satisfied with the dispensation which has deprived me of my property, and leaves me very poor. I have no doubt of the necessity of it, and thank God for his mercy, in thus keeping me out of a great temptation to ease and carelessness.

1839. 1 mo. 15. I experience spiritual refreshment, and cannot help believing that I must be more engaged in the work of the ministry ; and that, in the Lord's time, obstructions will be removed out of the way.

2 mo. 5. Monthly meeting. I obtained leave to hold a few meetings in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire."

While absent for this purpose he writes to his wife :—

"*Swindon*, 8, 4 mo. 1819.

MY DEAR ELIZABETH,—It is a privation to miss the company of our friends who are visiting you, but I am somewhat reconciled to it by believing that I am in my right place: the meetings have been favoured and very relieving. I feel not a little about Joseph's health, and would gladly hear again of him. I believe we can now do but little for our children, but what is to be done by earnest prayers on their behalf.

Farringdon, 14, 5 mo. 1839.

. . . . Yesterday my excellent assistants Geo. Withy and James Bowden got the tent erected at Sparshalt, and we had a blessed meeting there, attended by a solemn sense of Divine power and love.

It is to be remarked that, in Sparshalt, there is no public house nor drinking shop, and I think the effects may be perceived in the countenances of the

people.—I am *glad to say* that, this morning, I feel stript of all but a confidence in Him who, I believe, has called me into this service; for there is great danger, after times of favour, of the creaturely part rising up. I am a little disappointed that I have no letter, but I hope to be kept in patience; *sure* that all things will work together for good, to those who are seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.—I cannot tell what to say about business. Though I know the necessity of attending to it, I do not think it would be right to neglect my present engagement; nor do I think that I could give my attention to anything else until this is accomplished."

S. C. returned home soon after this.

DIARY.

"Bristol, 1839, 7 mo. 19. A silent meeting, in which I had very particular views of the state of things in the church at large, in our Society, and in our own particular meeting. I see that the Lord will make his name glorious, and that, notwithstanding the unfaithfulness of our Society, He will more and more bring into view its principles, which are the Gospel.

7 mo. 21. First-day. A most refreshing meeting; especially so under the ministry of dear Maria Fox, which flowed with much life, to the encouragement of the faithful disciples of Christ.

22. Took tea with some of our friends. How I long that, to soundness of principle, there were added faithfulness and simplicity of practice!

In the 8th month, paid a visit to my dear aunt Mary Capper. She is aged eighty-four, and very feeble, but exceedingly sweet, and prepared for eternity. I thought it a great privilege to be sensible of the influence of her pure and sanctified spirit, and to look forward to meet her, ere long, in happiness.

Bristol, 3, 9 mo. 1839.

My dear Sister,—When at Birmingham, I paid a visit to dear Rachel Lloyd, who, I believe, finds a stay to her soul under no common conflicts; and I hope she will be enabled to hold fast her confidence to the end.

4th. We have just received a family visit, which was a time of great favour. How can any one, once a witness of such seasons, admit the belief that there are no distinct and perceptible influences of the Spirit! no Divine manifestations of the will of God to man, clearly opened in the heart! The dedication of our dear friend Gawen Ball, in accompanying D. P. H. in this service, seems a delightful evening sacrifice."

DIARY.

"1839, 9 mo. 8. I feel that my mind must be more devoted to the service of the church; but that the mode will be clearly seen, and the way pointed out for escape from the difficulties which I am under.

9 mo. 22. I quite apprehend that I shall have to labour in and about London and Birmingham next summer; but how I am to be provided for, as to the body, I do not yet see. However, I have faith to believe that all will be rightly ordered, and feel, both

humblingly and cheeringly, that I can do nothing by way of contrivance. It is a great support to me thus to be made sensible of my own weakness.

10 mo. 13. A day of depression, and sense of human infirmities; but not without a feeling that the preparing Hand for service was upon me."

TO ONE OF HIS NEPHEWS.

"*Bristol*, 23, 10 mo. 1839.

My dear ——, I have been much gratified by thy letter; it gives me hope that thou wilt bend under Divine power. We can never be sufficiently grateful for those dispensations which awaken us to a sense of our real state, and of our danger; and which make us feel our need of mercy. I hope thou wilt cherish these feelings as tokens for good. Do not endeavour to dissipate the sense of thy own unworthiness; human nature requires this sort of discipline. I am very sensible that it is so; and I think I may say that there is no state of mind for which I am more truly thankful than the one in which I am the most bowed under this sight. How much, even in a short career of folly and forgetfulness of God, there is to be repented of! and how gracious is our God, in arresting our course by his visitations! Thy affectionate Uncle."

DIARY.

"1839, 10 mo. 25. Much feeling of abstraction from worldly things, and a renewed deep impression that my calling is to service in the church of Christ—active service. Lord! make the way clear! Remove, if it

please thee, the difficulties; and may they be removed just in the way that thy will points out.

11 mo. 24. First-day. I sat in the morning meeting under much exercise of mind, with some clear views, and apprehension of service. While I was waiting to discern the right time to speak, my dear friend Arnee Frank stood up, and very particularly expressed what was on my mind. In the evening, Elizabeth Dudley spoke, and it also was a favoured meeting.

26. A highly-favoured meeting; dear E. Dudley was dipped into feeling with various states, and ministered to them.

12 mo. 1. First-day. The evening meeting very solemn, and nearly silent. Toward the close, my mouth was opened in supplication; I thought I felt that I was not alone in this exercise, although my voice only was heard.

31. Felt the great privilege of prayer, with something like the answer, 'In all thy difficulties, my grace is sufficient for thee.'"

TO ONE OF HIS NEPHEWS.

"*Bristol*, 10, 1 mo. 1840.

My dear ——, Remember that religion is a work carried on in the heart, and not in the head. Dwelling much in humility and abasement before the Lord, seeking to learn of the Spirit of Jesus, is our safety. With regard to keeping retired in meetings, I think I have found that, when the mind wanders, as more or less it does at times, an unperturbed return [to the Object of worship] is the most efficacious; and, as ex-

perience increases, it is often permitted that this trial abates. Thy affectionate uncle, S. C."

DIARY.

"1840, 1 mo. 21. A time of much travail of soul, for the church at large, and especially for our religious Society, which I have seen must be purified. Solemn sight of exercise and labour to be my portion. The will of the Lord in all things be done!

2 mo. 4. My mind is weighed down with the prospect of religious service in London, etc. etc. My worldly circumstances increase the trial greatly.

9. Continued solemn views of the service called for from me this summer, and of my own utter incapacity for the work; with assurance of Divine support and guidance. Much tried about my pecuniary situation, but a secret belief that I shall be led safely along.

3 mo. 2. At meeting, I mentioned my prospect of religious service in London, Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool. More unity and sympathy were expressed than usual. I pray that the cause of Christ may be exalted by his own power, and that people may be turned from the darkness of empty profession to the true Light."

FROM LETTERS TO HIS WIFE.

"*London*, 1, 5 mo. 1840.

My dear Elizabeth,—I have been looking out for a place to hold a meeting in Pimlico, and had the assistance of a sweet old friend, Stephen Fitzgerald. I felt low and timid, yet had a calm belief that I am

not out of my right place. George Withy has arrived, and will assist. The cordial manner in which Friends here unite in my engagement has felt very encouraging, and gives me a hope that it may prove to have been of Divine origin; and then no matter who or what the instruments made use of in the work. Nothing can exceed the kindness of our dear friends, Thomas Bevan and wife.

5 mo. 4. Two meetings have been held in Pimlico. I felt peace in the day's work, though but few attended. How good it is for us to feel that, of ourselves, we can do nothing, and to acknowledge His wisdom who so graciously brings down the creature, and humbles us! A meeting is appointed in Tothill-fields, among thieves and loose people of the lowest sort. I pray that the Lord may be with us."

The meeting proved a favoured one. In this visit to London he held nineteen, chiefly among the most degraded of the population. Early in the next month he went to Birmingham for the same purpose, and again had the help of his kind friend George Withy. Samuel Capper's trial in leaving home was increased by the illness of two of his sons; but he was enabled to resign all, in order to be faithful unto Him who had called him into this labour of love. During the course of it, he had to endure many conflicts, yet he could say, "The way is certainly prepared; the word seems to be like showers on the thirsty ground;" and this caused him to rejoice and give praise where alone it is due.

Although he makes frequent allusion, in his diary, etc., to the deep exercise, and the sense of strippedness, which he had to pass through, while under preparation for speaking to the states of the people, he was by no means gloomy; but on the contrary, so cheerful as to be a general favourite among the young. He had much talent for social converse, and greatly enjoyed it; so that he seemed to be the life of the private circle; but, with relation to his ministry, he was thankful to be made sensible that he had no strength of his own, and that the Lord alone could enable him availingly to proclaim his gospel, which he rejoiced when he was strengthened to do, especially to the *poor;* and he has been heard to say, that he never felt more *at home* than when declaring to such "the unsearchable riches of Christ."

On the 20th of 6 mo. he writes to his wife: "We have great cause to be humbly thankful for the wonderful condescension that we experience in the blessed meetings which we have." He was similarly engaged in Manchester and Liverpool; from the last-mentioned place, he thus describes the concluding meetings: "They were favoured with the overshadowing of the wing of Divine goodness, and I feel very thankful thus to close my more public engagements here. I have much enjoyed Thomas Thompson's company; he is a most kind support to those engaged as I am."

After his return home, he had to watch the declining days of his son John. This dear youth had, some years before, given way to a temptation to

indulge in novel reading, which unwholesome practice led him into greater evils; but of this his parents were quite ignorant until a short time before his death, when they were brought into much sorrow and conflict on his account. His serious illness induced great thoughtfulness, and he told his father that he felt, in a way which he had never before done, the absolute necessity of redemption, and the efficacy of the atoning sacrifice which Christ had offered for sin; adding that he believed, if it should please the Almighty to take him, He would perfect that which He had begun, utterly unworthy as he himself was. He said he was poor and miserable, and wanting all things; that he believed his illness had been sent in mercy; exclaiming, "Oh for patience and resignation to His most holy will! There are many conflicts and deep baptisms to be gone through before I shall be permitted to behold Him who is all purity; but, if I *am* permitted, all the pains will be as nothing. Entreat for me, all of you, that I may find mercy. Nothing short of infinite mercy will do."

He lingered on, for several months, under much suffering of body and mind; occasionally giving expression to his feelings.

1841, 1 mo. 14th. As his youngest brother, Thomas, sat by him, he said, "I was about thy age when I first went from home, and I was not careful enough to attend to the "still, small voice" within me, in little things. It is by little and little that we go astray; and, when we have passed the boundary, we go on by rapid strides. I feel very much parting with

you, particularly the younger part of the family. I feel it very tenderly; I have not set you such an example as I ought to have done; I hope this may be a warning to you. I went astray, and the Lord has seen meet to lay his hand very heavily upon me. Though this may be the last time that thou wilt see me here, I believe we shall meet again. If ever thou art in difficulty, do not keep it to thyself; always tell one of thy brothers, or thy father, and ask their advice. Never countenance evil in any one, but let them know that thou dost not approve of it. Be careful not to indulge in any bad conversation. I desire very earnestly that thou mayst be preserved from evil company; and do be particular to keep to the plain language, for there is nothing which keeps out of harm more than that does.—If I *might* be allowed a little ease! but I desire to suffer all that is allotted me. 'Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, Jesus Christ.' Oh, I hope *that* is the foundation on which I have built. Oh, when will He arise, and say, Son, thy sins are forgiven thee! until then, I must wait and pray. And I am sure you will pray for me, that patience may hold out, and that the everlasting Arm may be underneath me in the hour of deep trial. I hope I am not deceiving myself. I feel utterly vile and unworthy. What a warning not to put off preparation until the day that we are called to give up our stewardship!" To one of his sisters he said, "For the last few days, I have been able to apply some of those gracious promises (and I trust that they have not been applied without

permission), 'I will not leave thee comfortless; I will come to thee.' Oh! it is all mercy." To his brother-in-law, John Frank, he said, "No one can tell what I have had to account for; five or six years of sin and misery! I do not know that I shall do wrong in telling thee (although I am very careful in speaking, because you all think much too well of me) that it was applied to me several times to-day, Son, thy sins, which are many, are all forgiven thee."

1 mo. 16th. Early in the morning his father was sitting by his bed, when John was much affected, and said, "I would not wish to grieve thee, by bringing to thy recollection my past misconduct; but I believe that, seeing me as it were a brand plucked out of the fire, all *that* will be passed over by thee; and I think I must tell thee that I have reason to be very thankful to thee for thy fatherly admonitions. Although they were often received in silence, yet they made an impression on my mind that none knows but myself; and they often kept me from doing evil, only because I knew it would grieve thee. I am afraid of saying too much, but I believe it is right for your encouragement to say that, most of yesterday, the language dwelt on my mind, 'Son! thy sins are forgiven thee.' Oh! how gracious a God, to forgive my many sins! I hope, in the last struggle, I shall not find that I have deceived myself, in applying to my own case the words, 'thy sins are forgiven thee.'" His father said that he thought it could be no deception, when we saw the great change which had been effected. He was sensible how feebly and imperfectly he had per-

formed the duties of a parent; but, if they might but know that *he* was received by the Saviour, all that they could desire, or pray for, would be granted. John exclaimed, "Oh, do not say so of thyself! Example is beyond precept, and I believe that I am blest for thy sake, and that thou wilt be blest." His father told him he believed that, during the few remaining days which he himself might live, he should be much engaged in endeavouring to spread the dear Redeemer's kingdom; but that, at present, the way did not appear for his liberation. "Oh," said John, "He who appoints to the work will also appoint the way." In the evening he said to one of his sisters, "I wish I could do anything, my very tenderly-loved sister, to console thee under this affliction; but I believe it will be thy greatest consolation to know that, after a life spent in the service of sin, I have been made meet, through the unutterable and adorable merits and mercy of my glorified Redeemer, to become a partaker of a heavenly crown, and to stand before the throne, praising Him whose power is inconceivable, and whose love is equal to it. This will be thy consolation."

A month from this time, he was still on the bed of languishing. His mother being alone with him, he gave her his hand, and remarked, "The Lord is afflicting me sore, but I trust He will enable me to bear it. I feel that I have been very far from what I ought to have been, either as a son or a brother; but if you have evidence of my acceptance, I know *that* will be more to you than anything else; and if I

should be received at the eleventh hour, I hope that nothing will be said of me but that I was as a brand plucked out of the fire."

On the 1st of 3 mo. he twice spoke of the sense which he had that his sins were forgiven, though they had been set in order before him. He mentioned the advantage to sons of having a father to whom they might open their minds about their spiritual concerns; but remarked, that it was of no service while the mind was not disposed to avail itself of the favour.

On the 4th, his breathing being difficult, his father asked if anything could be done to relieve him; to which he answered, "Not that I am aware of, except to pray for me."

Early in the morning of the 6th he was so ill that the family gathered round him, when he signified that he could look to a *reconciled* Father in heaven. One of his brothers remarking that whosoever cometh unto Christ will not be cast out, he replied, "No! I have felt this morning that He will never leave me, nor forsake me. It has pleased Him, in mercy, to afflict me, and I have had to bless Him for it; but now, if He sees proper to say, It is enough, I shall be thankful. . . . . O Almighty Father, be pleased, in thy unbounded mercy, to cut short the work in righteousness! nevertheless, not my will but thine be done! And oh, be pleased to look down with pity on these my very dear relatives, and support them in the hour of trial! and be pleased to be with *me*, in the deep valley of the shadow of death! but I will fear no evil, for Thou hast promised that thy rod and thy

staff shall comfort me. Be pleased to grant me resignation!" About five minutes after uttering these words, he most quietly expired, aged nearly twenty-five.

On the preceding day his father wrote:—

"*Bristol*, 5, 3 mo. 1841.

My dear Nephew,—Within the last week, we have seen John just on the brink of eternity. He has suffered much, in consequence of some misdeeds which have embittered his mind; happily, I believe that he has sought and found repentance and reconciliation. What a mercy it is! For the last few days, he has appeared peculiarly sweet and placid, which tends to make me believe that he will, ere long, be taken from us. This all-absorbing subject leaves me hardly any thought for others.

Thy affectionate uncle, S. C.

Bristol, 25, 3 mo. 1841.

My dear son Thomas,—I have often recurred to the scenes which we so lately witnessed; and, although I am still of the mind that we have great cause for thankfulness, as regards dear John's experience of forgiveness, yet the fearful risk that he ran, by leading so unholy a life, comes frequently over my mind like a thunder-shock, and requires that I should summon the recollection of the sore conflicts which he endured, and of his assurance of forgiveness, in order to relieve my uneasiness. I have often fervently desired his deliverance from evil, when I was in ignorance of the extent of its dominion over him; but this sad proof of the depravity of human nature makes

me more than ever solicitous that you who are young may, as thou sayst, take warning; and, by humbly seeking strength where alone it is to be found, may be preserved from the insidious snares and galling yoke of sin. 'Years of sin and misery,' he said, poor fellow! that he had passed; indeed, they always are companions.

Bristol, 2, 5 mo. 1841.

My dear Thomas,—We had not heard from Tottenham or York for several days till this morning. Thy cousin George Harris died at Tottenham, it appears, on sixth-day, when it was very relieving to have his parents at home with him. They had been detained at York by William's life being so uncertain. Dear George was not able to converse much with them, but he seemed glad of their presence. It is very pleasant, in thinking of this dear boy, to feel satisfied that the truths of religion had made a deep impression on his mind, and that he had experienced that change of heart without which we cannot hope for an admittance into the kingdom of God and of Christ. How delightful it is, when we think of our friends gone before us, to believe that even those who had deeply sinned have washed their garments, and 'made them white in the blood of the Lamb!' and that, should we have the like blessed experience, and not live after the flesh, but through the Spirit mortify the deeds of the body, we may hope to join them in a happy eternity!"

CHAPTER VIII.

1841—1848.

LABOURS IN IRELAND, ETC.

On the 6th of the 4 mo. 1841, Samuel Capper laid before his monthly meeting a prospect of service in some parts of Ireland, among the poor and degraded of the population; and a certificate was directed to be prepared. Of this engagement he had had a view since travelling in that country on business some years previously.

Having received a letter from Ireland, evincing some timidity as regarded the peculiar character of the service contemplated, with reference to the public meetings, he wrote to a friend in that land a letter, from which the following is extracted:—

"*Bristol*, 20, 4 mo. 1841.

.... I am not surprised that Friends, unaccustomed to the peculiar service to which I believe myself called, should be somewhat startled at it; and it will certainly be my place to acquiesce in the decision of Friends, should they think it best that I should not proceed. Personally, I might be induced to feel that your doubts present an opportunity, which my inclination would be pleased to embrace, of withdrawing from a service by no means gratifying; at the same time, I would offer a few remarks, for the consideration of

thyself and the kind friends who have taken an interest in the subject.

In contemplating this engagement in your nation, I could not do otherwise than ponder the points so strongly set forth in thy letter; viz., the risk of disturbance and personal danger, to others as well as myself; but, when these things have come discouragingly into view, it has been accompanied with a feeling that, if we are desirous of being the servants of Christ, we must be willing to follow those requirings which are made manifest to us. I have been favoured not to be uneasy about the issue. It may be, as has been much the case in this land, even in the worst neighbourhoods, we have often had quiet, satisfactory meetings; nor do I think, were I certain that much difficulty and danger would attend, that I dare, on that account, abandon the engagement. I shall only add, that I am quite disposed to act in accordance with the judgment of Friends, but should be uneasy if the omission of this apprehended duty were to lie upon me."

DIARY.

"1841, 5 mo. 20. First-day. Two very solemn and refreshing meetings, although deeply humbling; as a sense was given me of the feebleness and imperfection of the creature, also of the fulness and power of Divine grace, and a promise of help and preservation, in the contemplated visit to Ireland."

Various obstacles prevented his commencing this undertaking till the 7th month, when he entered upon it, accompanied by his friends Thomas Doyle and Robert

Charlton. He and his dedicated helpers had much to pass through during the service. On landing at Cork he had the kind help of some of his friends, whilst others held back, calling it an awful engagement, etc.

DIARY.

"7 mo. 6th. A public meeting was held at Bandon, about fifteen miles from Cork, which was attended by both Protestants and Roman Catholics. There might be about 500 present, many of them quite young. Several Wesleyan preachers were there, one of whom thought the tent admirably calculated to meet the prejudices of the people. We had reason to be thankful for Divine grace and love, and the meeting ended well."

Writing to his wife, he says, in reference to this meeting:—"I understood that the lender of the ground said that he should have been much grieved if he had not permitted Friends to hold the meeting. He thought that fully half of the people were Romanists. Thou mayst suppose that I suffered much yesterday; though Wm. Harvey, Wm. Martin, and George Cox, all seemed to enter heartily into the matter, I could not forget that some Friends in Cork had expressed their wish that I could be willing to give up a prospect which they consider as truly awful. I am more and more convinced that the disjointed state of [general] society in this country is kept up and heightened by the unwholesome distance at which the Protestants live with the Roman Catholics; in which Friends have their share.

7 mo. 8. A good monthly meeting. Friends appeared rather less disposed to discouragement, and a committee was appointed to assist in carrying out the service.

9th. Came to Skibbereen, and held a meeting; about 700 present.

10. We went to Skull; and, after a day wherein followed a succession of circumstances calculated to humble us, and to drive us to the Source of all spiritual strength, I retired to rest, confirmed in the conviction that we must look alone to Divine direction and support.

1841, 7 mo. 11. First-day. We held a meeting in the tent, but the priest of Ballydehob, who celebrates mass at Skull, publicly cursed us from the altar, and forbade his hearers going to look at the tent; yet about 400 were present, and a precious season it was. The company appeared to be serious persons, to whom I felt engaged to declare the unsearchable riches of Christ!

12th. Came to Bantry, where I was disposed to sit with the Methodists, in their little meeting-house, but they were afraid to meet, as several Protestants had had their windows broken, and they feared lest their meeting-house should be pulled down. There is a bitter, malevolent spirit fostered by the priests on the one side, and a great want of love and forbearance on the other.

25. Kinsale. A beautiful morning; the air delightful! I have had a refreshing night, and woke with renewed confidence that the power and love of Christ

will sustain, whatever may be the trials of the day; but strongly felt the opposition to the spiritual reign of Him whom the poor ignorant followers of the priests profess to worship, and also the bitterness of the priests themselves. Whether we may be allowed a quiet meeting (appointed in an old brewery belonging to George Dunn, who freely offered it) is very uncertain. The weight of the concern rests heavily on me. I hope I do, above all things, desire that the will of God may be done, whatever of trial and suffering it may involve.

26. We had a truly refreshing, baptizing opportunity with about 200, among whom I cannot doubt that there were some really devoted persons. It was a season of unusual pouring out of the Spirit."

After holding ten public meetings, he returned home on the 5th of 8 mo.

DIARY, ETC.

"1841, 8 mo. 8. First-day. I have enjoyed much peace during the last week; and, although my mind shrinks from the probability, if I live, of a renewal of the like employment in Ireland next summer, yet I hope to be resigned to it, and that I shall be helped to stand, in the power of Him who cares for every little one among his disciples.

1842, 1 mo. 1. This year begins with a solemn feeling of the uncertainty of my living to see it pass away. I feel humbly dependent on Divine strength, and I desire that the will of God, as regards me, may be done. Should I live a few months, I feel that it is

probable some unusual and trying services may be required of me; but what is there that we ought not to *rejoice* to do, for the sake of the despised cause of Christ on the earth! I do not mean that talking may abound, but the true experience of his blessed presence and teachings. The world may abound in talkers, but it loves not the sufferers for His name.

Bristol, 15, 1 mo. 1842.

My dear ——, It gave me pleasure to find that thy mind still continues to pursue the great object of a fuller acquaintance with thy own imperfections and corruptions, and with the grace, goodness, and holiness of God; which, when seen, are apt to fill the mind with humility and love. It is a wonderful thing that, as far as I can ascertain, no known growth precludes a farther progress; and that which, at an early period of a Christian course, appears to be a state of purity, as we approach it, is seen to be but a stage of progress toward a more pure and heavenly condition. How delightful it is to perceive that we are so gently and graciously dealt with that the whole of the designs of perfect wisdom and love toward us are reserved till we are able to bear them! I think that, amid great trials which cannot well be put upon paper, some of my family are taking steps in this blessed progress; and I feel that every dispensation which promotes this is a blessing. Joseph's health is far from strong; he, his wife, and two little girls are with us. There is such a wonderful difference in the construction of Irish and English society, that, without being there, it would be almost impossible to say what we could or could

not do, in the way of obtaining comfortably conducted public meetings; however, I believe I must try, if I live till next 5th month. My own feeling is, that if my Cos. John Cadbury and George Withy were willing to accompany me, no persons would be more calculated to surmount the difficulties that we should inevitably meet with. I am quite aware that we go at great risk of insult, and perhaps of some injury to our persons; but that consideration ought not to deter from a clearly apprehended duty.

Bristol, 1, 4 mo. 1842.

My dear brother John,—I was pleased to receive a few lines from thee, which I did while at Calne. My wife and I proceeded to Melksham, and attended the quarterly meeting. Our dear old friend, Arnee Frank (much disabled by the seizure which he had eighteen years ago), was paying a visit to Friends. He was wonderfully engaged in stirring up those who may be too much settled in a security in anything short of renewing grace. We are, as thou wilt perceive, now returned home, and perhaps may pass a few quiet weeks before I depart for a scene of no small exercise of patience and endurance. Indeed, I know not what may await us in that (all but in name) pagan land. Of course, I speak generally; many and blessed exceptions there are, but the mass is leavened with a spirit at enmity with gospel light. I wish thee to accept of the selections from John Barclay's papers; however either of us may in any instance differ from him, in any of his apprehensions, we cannot read his records of feeling, or his letters, without

a conviction of the deep piety and unreserved devotion which he cultivated; and I have been greatly instructed by observing how the beauty and purity of gospel truth were gradually presented to his mind; something resembling what our blessed Lord said to his disciples, 'I have many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now;' and they were opened unto them as they were able to bear them. Joseph is much relieved from acute pain; and we hope he will be able to take charge of my little concerns in my absence. Thy affectionate brother, S. C."

DIARY, ETC.

"1842, 4 mo. 10. I wish we may all be more and more solicitous to learn of Christ, as He is pleased to teach by his Holy Spirit in our hearts; thus we shall find that He will discover to us his will, and lead us in the way of the cross, which is the path of fruitfulness unto God; and we shall know of the doctrine. 'By their fruits ye shall know them,' was our holy Redeemer's own rule; beautiful and simple! The fruits of the Spirit are love, but the fruits of the flesh (notwithstanding the highest pretensions and profession of religion) are the love of the world, making merchandise of the profession of the religion of Jesus, persecution, malice, revenge, and every evil work.

Bristol, 23, 4. 1842.

MY DEAR SISTER K. B.—My mind has often been introduced into much feeling with you. Wisely, have I thought, are we each of us dealt with; just, no

doubt, as we require the hand of perfect love and perfect knowledge to be laid upon us! I have still the same sources of trial; yet we cannot but say that we are mercifully dealt with. I sometimes think that I have need of faith, rather more lively than I always possess, to leave home on so arduous and solemn an engagement, under all these circumstances. Yet I remember that the way has always been made for me. I was gladdened by the account of my dear brother's amendment; but, above all, I did feel the preciousness of that gracious influence that preserves you both in calm acquiescence in the Divine will, and supports in patience under suffering. Affectionately, S. C."

DIARY.

"1842, 5 mo. 1. This was a day of spiritual access to the throne of grace, and a very sweet sense of the love of God, and of his care over even the disobedient and unfaithful; in which the offering of prayer was called for, and access known for all."

Thus was this dedicated servant prepared for entering on his arduous service in Ireland, from which his nature shrank, but which he durst not give up. He attended the commencement of the yearly meeting in London, and then sailed. The following are extracts from letters to his wife, and from his diary, given according to date:—

"*Dublin*, 19, 5 mo. 1842.

My dear Elizabeth,—It was particularly cheering to find Cos. John Cadbury thoroughly prepared to

devote his time and energies to the work before us, and especially comforting to be assured, both orally and by feeling, that his dear wife was perfectly prepared to give him up. It is a great deal that he leaves; a large family, business, etc. It is pleasant to find that he can repose so much confidence in our nephews, A. J. and W. C. Naish, and I sincerely hope that things will go on comfortably in his absence. Our dear Aunt Mary is certainly failing, but still sweet in spirit and warm in love. The meeting of ministers and elders in London was, I think, unusually favoured with heavenly goodness; under a sense of which William Forster bore a noble testimony to the excellency of that power which so gloriously broke forth at the first rise of our Society. I do deeply sympathize with our dear Joseph and his wife; but I feel a confidence that, as they are preserved humble and teachable, and willing to endure chastisement, the time will come when they will be owned as children of the Lord, to their inexpressible comfort. On the journey, I was favoured with some solemn reflections; and though they tended to prove the great weakness and infirmity which encompass me, I was not without a sustaining assurance that, whatever humiliation or trial might await us, the name and power of the Redeemer will be exalted, and his kingdom in some degree spread; and, if so, we may be truly thankful for all that befals us.

Limerick, 5 mo. 21. In passing through the various towns, on our journey from Dublin to Limerick, it was a great comfort to see, as we were able clearly to

do, that the present depressed state of trade has not affected Ireland as it would have done, had it not been for Theobald Mathew's exertions, and the effects produced by sober habits.

I have thought it best to propose a meeting to-morrow, and earnestly pray that the cause of the ever blessed truth may not suffer, through unwatchfulness or unfaithfulness. A kind and sympathizing interest, manifested by Friends here, tends much to endear them, and to strengthen me to move on in what I apprehend to be right. My heart is deeply affected with a sense of the need and efficacy of prayer, in order to be preserved from error, and to obtain the clear indications of the Master's will.

5 mo. 23. We held the meeting, which seems to have encouraged Friends much; about four hundred present; it was very quiet; the people seem anxious to attend, but say, 'We dare not come, for fear of the clergy.'

24th. Whether we may ever be permitted to know that any benefit results to these poor things by these efforts or not, I feel persuaded that a chord is touched, in some of their hearts, which will continue to vibrate toward the blessed influences of Divine truth. Our dear friend Robert Charlton has arrived.

5 mo. 25. Yesterday we walked about for several hours, looking into the cabins of the poor, where, with few exceptions, we found cleanliness and comfort, much decent furniture, and good beds, frequently with beautiful white counterpanes; nearly all, fruits of total abstinence. The gigantic and celebrated

distillery lies desolate, only inhabited by rats. Every brewer but one, in this city of 80,000 inhabitants, has given up the trade; and *that* one seeks his limited support beyond the precincts of his own city.

26. We had a heavenly meeting, under the tent, in Watts's Foundry-yard, Irish Town, as far as I could judge; and I think others also felt it to be a blessed opportunity, in which the power of the love of Christ reached the people's minds. The stillness was truly admirable, in which the meeting broke up.

27. We have a meeting appointed for to-night at Garry Owen. I earnestly desire that the Head of the church may condescend to be with us. Garry Owen is esteemed the most lawless district in Ireland, notwithstanding which the number of women Friends who attended the meeting with me was much increased. I am disposed to consider this quite as satisfactory as any which has been held. The high constable attended, as he has done nearly every meeting. He kindly made way for us to retire through the crowd, and remarked the great attention of the people, saying, 'They were afraid to draw their breath, for fear of losing any part of what was said.' He himself behaved with the greatest propriety and kindness.

31. I proceed in great fear; *not of man*, but lest I should, in any degree, be turned out of the right way. There is no part of the all-wise dealings of the Head of the church, with his followers, more salutary and necessary than those which tend to keep us humble; and for such I feel increasingly thankful.

6 mo. 2. Oppressed and weighed down with the horrible darkness of Popery; it seems almost impenetrable; but we know not the day nor the hour *when*, nor the means by *which*, it may please the Lord to dissipate this thick cloud. *We* have only to be found watching to know our duty, and faithful to discharge it."

This was truly his endeavour, but he had much to endure. Considerable opposition was manifested in some of the towns, and, in one, they were assailed by stones, as they were leaving the ground where the tent had been erected; but no one was materially injured.

DIARY.

"1842, 6 mo. 5. We had a solemn and sweet meeting in the Methodist chapel at Tralee; about three hundred were present, probably one-third Romanists.

6th. Friends sought diligently for an inclosed yard to put up the tent in, but without success; as, although there were several very eligible which belonged to Protestants, they were so fearful of injury, in the way of their business, that they would not permit us to use them. They, however, recommended our trying the Milk-market. We were doubtful about it, but the tent was set up. The opposition of the priests was soon manifest through their agents. There appeared a disposition to demolish the tent, so that, after some of us had sat a few minutes quietly there, while the rest were engaged in preserving it, we found it best to relinquish our intention. There was a

stronger indication here of malevolent feeling, against those whom they call heretics, than I have seen elsewhere. It is quite clear that Popery is the same now as in the days of Mary. Oh, the darkness of the priests! The people would be very accessible if it were not for them.

6 mo. 10. Attended the youth's meeting for Tipperary, held at Cahir. I was impressed with the belief that our being there was in the ordering of best Wisdom; it was a searching time. About forty men and seventy women were present. These meetings have no exact parallel in England; they are, in fact, meetings for worship, part of the time being occupied by reading some portions of the approved writings of Friends; often a share of doctrinal matter, and another of interesting biography. Pauses intervene, and opportunities are taken to make remarks, or for the exercise of what may be more strictly considered as ministry.

11. It is very kind of my friends to think so much of us, but we have need of sympathy.

13. I breakfasted with the widow Jane Jacob; a very sweet and valuable woman. With her and her daughters I had a refreshing time. After dining at Upper Cahir Abbey on the way, we went to Tipperary, where we held a large meeting in the tent, about five hundred being present, who were most properly behaved and very attentive. We have reason to be thankful that one more meeting has been held in which we believe that the cause of truth has not suffered.

1842, 6 mo. 14. Held a relieving meeting at Clogheen.

Had my mind been at liberty for such enjoyment, I should have had much pleasure from the sight of the Knockmeldown mountains, and of the more distant Galtees. It is a fine country, but there are so many sources of painful reflection that the face of it seems marred.

15. In a neighbouring meeting I was deeply tried to see things let down as they are, and the spirit of the world reigning in those who profess to be the disciples of Him whose kingdom is not of this world. We had a meeting in the tent, the evening of this day, in an orchard near the castle of the Earl of Glengall. I believe that about four hundred were present, and it was a satisfactory time to our friends. To myself it was a laborious one, as I felt worn with so much exertion and conflict.

17. Thurles. An emissary of the priests came to the tent and drove all the people out of it, saying many bitter things. We remained a short time, but were obliged to give up the attempt to hold a meeting. I feel low and tried."

Before leaving Thurles, Samuel Capper wrote an address to the inhabitants, explaining the object of the meeting intended to have been held. He writes to his wife—"From Thurles, we rode eight miles to Templemoor, but the report of our treatment had been carried here, and we found it vain to try to obtain a place for the tent, or a room of any description; so we returned to Clonmel."

He passed the next first-day at Clonmel, and writes: "The remains of Elizabeth Davis were buried. As is

usual in this country, the interment attracted a great concourse, and I hope the opportunity may be beneficially remembered by many. We had a large public meeting in the evening, and I have seldom, according to my apprehension, been present at a more favoured season. A large portion of the company were Roman Catholics, but the sense of the sincerity and devotedness of many was such as seemed to open the way for deep instruction; and, in the end, for such access in prayer as it was truly cheering to experience.

6 mo. 20. At Urlingford, we sat down with a few quiet, attentive persons, but others were in a very different disposition; and, when the meeting broke up, they hooted and pelted Friends, and continued screeching for hours. No conception, without being in contact with it, can be formed of the rancorous feeling of the priests and their coadjutors. They feel that their power is in danger, from the increased sobriety of the people, and every nerve is strained to keep out light from their minds.

22. Anner Mills. Here we are most affectionately entertained, but I feel the effect of the various things which press upon my spirits. I am weighed down by the darkness, oppression, etc., of the priests, which will never be fully known in this state of being; and by the incompleteness of the relief obtained, etc. etc."

After holding eighteen meetings he returned home, and had peace in the retrospect of his endeavours to discharge his duty toward the poor benighted inhabitants of that land, for whom he deeply felt, pur-

posing, however, to return with the view of attending the quarterly meeting at Limerick, and of holding some farther public meetings in the counties of Wexford, Cork, and Waterford. He accordingly proceeded again to Ireland in the seventh month, accompanied by D. P. Hack, who was about to enter upon a general visit to Friends in that country.

He attended the quarterly meeting for Munster, held at Limerick on the 17th. Several of the Friends assembled there continued to view the service of holding meetings among the Roman Catholic population with so much alarm, owing to the oppositon, difficulty, and danger which had in some instances occurred, that they advised him not to pursue the engagement any farther; and this opinion was so strongly expressed to him at the quarterly meeting of ministers and elders, that, although his mind did not feel relieved, he believed it right to submit, in condescension to his brethren, and, leaving his burden with them, quietly to return home, and give up his certificate.

It is a satisfaction to know that the opposition to his prosecution of this work of faith did not arise from any disunity with his ministry or conduct.

DIARY, ETC.

"Bristol, 1842, 10 mo. 9. First-day. Elizabeth Dudley was very acceptably engaged in the ministry.

11. A discourse from E. D. at meeting, which confirmed me in the apprehension that I must again visit Ireland.

23. Had a clear view of going there, much against my inclination."

TO HIS YOUNGEST SON.

"*Bristol*, 4, 11 mo. 1842.

My dear Thomas,—I do not very often write to thee, though I often think of thee. Of thy possessing as many comforts as fall to the lot of most young men I entertain no doubt, and I think thou art disposed to make thyself master of thy business. I hope thou art also desirous of improving thy mind on subjects calculated to make thee a valuable member of civil society, which I consider a duty that we owe to our fellow-men. I am, however, more solicitous on another subject than on either of these; and that is, thy yielding to the secret influences of that Spirit manifested in the human heart as a witness for God against our corrupt inclinations; humbling us, and bringing us, in real contrition, to seek for Divine help to overcome all that is opposed to the holiness in which we are called to walk. Be persuaded that it is much easier to bear the cross, when early submitted to, than when our wills have grown strong; and that we best consult our real happiness by this early dedication."

DIARY.

"11 mo. 14. My mind has, for many weeks, been closely exercised with the conviction that I must again offer myself to the work in which I have been engaged in Ireland; that deep travail of spirit and sore discouragement will be my portion, but that, to some poor creatures, a message of mercy is designed. I must leave all, and live one day at once."

During this summer, the wife of his eldest son died, after a short illness. Her husband, Joseph Capper, had long been in very delicate health; and, after her death, he and his two little girls took up their abode with his father. This was no small addition to his cares, but it was also a great satisfaction thus to nurse them in his bosom.

TO HIS YOUNGEST SON.

"*Neath*, 25, 1 mo. 1843.

My dear son Thomas,—Here I am, detained day after day, and I know not when I may be liberated. I received thy affectionate letter, and do not like longer to delay saying that it was very satisfactory to me, as it gave me reason to hope that thou art disposed to consider the value of true religion, which we can never do too early. It has a most salutary effect in moderating our expectations, and calming our passions. This is admitted by nearly every professor, but human nature does not so readily admit (at least, not practically) that these blessed effects are only wrought out by the humbling, baptizing work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts; that this must be prayed for, waited for, and in all sincerity believed in, and obeyed. It is while under this operation that our hearts condemn us, and that we feel the value, preciousness, and necessity of a Saviour; and are willing to accept of salvation on the terms of submission to the teachings of the Holy Spirit. What else do we mean by the prayer, uppermost with every sincere believer in these doctrines, Thy will be done!—Farewell, my dear son, and the God of peace be with thee."

TO ANOTHER OF HIS CHILDREN.

"*Bristol*, 23, 2 mo. 1843.

My dear ——, It has not been because it did not awaken my tender sympathy that I have not yet replied to thy letter; perhaps, indeed, the nature and degree of the feelings stirred up may have been one cause of delay. First, I am somewhat in the state of being overpowered with a sense of the undeserved favour which we have enjoyed by being permitted to believe that the two dear children who have been taken from us have known the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit—the one Lord, one faith, one baptism—at different periods and under different circumstances; yet, in mercy, *both saved!* Then the hope that you who are left are, several of you, under the compassionate regard of the Shepherd of Israel, and the trust, which I sometimes am able to entertain, that all may or will be effectually brought to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. When I consider how faintly our desire for your spiritual welfare has been felt, how feebly the race has been pursued in your sight, I feel deeply the graciousness of Him who has been pleased, in his rich love and compassion, to stretch out the arms of invitation to you; almost to be said, in some sort, to compel you to come in. Secondly, the abounding mercy to us, in arresting our career toward what would have been esteemed affluence in this life; wherein I am sensible there was great danger that lukewarmness might have overcome, to a greater degree than it has done. And, thirdly, the blessing of support under many close trials, and espe-

cially in the discharge of those duties to which I have felt myself called. Now my mind, affected by these thoughts, was prepared, on any fresh manifestation of Divine love and condescension to us, to admit, in a large degree, the sense of our unworthiness, and of the richness of that grace that visits you. I have long believed that one instance of this unmerited regard is the tendering power of Almighty love on thy heart, attracting toward Himself, and giving the desire to be conformed to His will; causing thee to sit down and count the cost of enlisting under His banner; and I now believe that thy path is not altogether hidden from thee. That the path of every true Christian is, and must be, one of self-denial—their exercise, the bearing of the cross—is a truth which I think I may say is daily more fully and abidingly impressed on my mind; as well as a large perception of the love and power of Christ, to lead, protect, uphold, and preserve his own, who love Him as their chiefest good. My very dear love to thee and to ——, who is, I have no doubt, a true help-meet, though it may not be permitted you always to see each other's path. I think we are often exercised *alone*, as the most efficacious mode of producing deep-rooted and permanent growth.

Thy very affectionate father, S. C."

In the fifth month, with the full concurrence of his monthly and quarterly meeting, and accompanied by Robert Charlton, he again left his home for Ireland. On this occasion, in compliance with the strongly expressed wish of his Irish friends, he relinquished the

use of the tent, though not without some apprehension that hereby he might, at least in some places, be unsuccessful in the attempt to bring together the class who never enter a building appropriated for worship, except the mass-house. On his way, he writes:—

"*Liverpool*, 11, 5 mo. 1843.

My dear friend Joseph Bewley,—I am in receipt of thy letter dated the 7th, from Dublin, which met me at this place, on my way to you for the purpose of endeavouring to relieve my mind of an exercise of some years' abiding on my spirit.

This communication from you excites no feeling incompatible with brotherly love toward thee or any other Friend in Ireland. . . . It may be best for me to say that one expression in thy letter casts a doubt before me whether the object of my visit is distinctly understood; it is this, that 'no impediment is intended to be thrown in the way of my holding public meetings in the *usual* way.' Now this seems to indicate an apprehension that, if my mind was turned to those persons who are likely to attend, on an invitation in the *usual* manner to one of our own meeting-houses, or to a Methodist meeting-house, in other cases (and perhaps also, on some few occasions, to court-houses or market-houses), then Friends in Ireland would be disposed to use their endeavours to obtain such meetings for me.

I cannot, my dear friend, at my will, change the object of my mind's solicitude, or surely I have reasons cogent enough to induce me so to do. The object at

which I aim is to procure meetings chiefly with such persons as are not likely, under ordinary circumstances, to go into any place of worship at all, or who are only likely to go to the Romish chapel. My limited experience, in somewhat similar service in England, and still more limited experience in Ireland, has fully shown that the observation which I am about to make, applies as strongly on your side the water as on this; viz., that this description of persons are not to be reached in the usual manner of holding public meetings. It may be as well to add, that if Friends could suggest a better mode of accomplishing my purpose, I am by no means attached to the mode which, in consequence of the difficulty of carrying out my views, we have been led to adopt as the most effectual.

Open air meetings I should like well, but they are liable to several very important inconveniences. In the first place, they are subject to unsettlement; secondly, in a climate so liable to change, we cannot calculate on being free from copious rain; and, thirdly, if anything be communicated, the needful exertion of voice is much greater than where there is a covering to convey the sound. I entertain a belief that the great Head of the church will visit these poor people with an increase of light, whoever may be the instruments made use of; and if this be not a right movement, may He appoint those which are right!

I am desirous of fully acknowledging my sense that, in respect of any fitness in myself for any portion, however small, of the work, I have none; and, as regards my feelings as a man, the release which you

offer me would be very agreeable; but I am, and have been, bound in the spirit, which bond I cannot break.

I am, thy affectionate friend, S. CAPPER."

TO HIS WIFE.

"*Liverpool*, 11, 5 mo. 1843.

MY DEAR ELIZABETH,—The letter from J. Bewley came duly to hand, and it gave us some anxiety, principally because, if we accepted of the proposal to hold meetings in the usual manner, we should virtually abandon our chief object; and, on the other hand, if we returned home it might appear as if we were not willing to essay to carry out our views without the appendage of the tent. I was so much discouraged that I had serious thoughts of returning home; however, we concluded to have a conference with the ministers and elders here, who unite in advising us to go to Dublin, and see how far Friends were willing to accomplish the object, by out-door meetings, or in any other way. This we have decided on, and shall cross, I hope, to-night.

5 mo. 13. Robert and I are well; he is very kind and encouraging, and I should much feel the want of his company. I think I feel, more than I ever did, the weight of the engagement, and my own *particular* unfitness and strippedness; which makes me count the night watches.

5 mo. 18. Nearly 800 persons attended the meeting in Sycamore Alley. The next day we had one in Meath Street, which was largely attended; but the people shouted, whistled, and demeaned themselves as one

might expect from persons accustomed to the mass-house; yet I felt much peace in this endeavour to fulfil my duty, and am not without a belief that some present were favoured to feel their minds brought under the power of truth. The monthly meeting appointed a large committee to assist; many Friends enter heartily into the thing, and I endeavour to hope that our coming is in right ordering. Our old friend Nathaniel Williams, who lives near the Meath Street meeting-house, was much concerned to see his neighbours conduct themselves so indecorously. On third-day we dined at Joseph Bewley's. Yesterday we had another meeting in Meath Street, which was quiet, and a good time."

He held a very crowded meeting in the Fish-market, at which some hundreds were seated, or standing densely together, under a covered shed. The time that silence could be obtained was very short, and there was an inclination to turn it into a Repeal meeting; yet many were disposed to listen. He had the opportunity of placing some gospel truths before those who could hear him, in spite of the noise of others, but, after about half an hour, he and his friends thought it best to retire, and allow the meeting to disperse. Alluding to this trying occasion, he remarks:—

"5 mo. 19. I have been admiring the condescension of a merciful God in permitting me to feel a great measure of peace in having passed through this conflict. Both Robert and myself slept well last night, which I do not think we have done before since our

landing. We are most kindly accommodated with our friends H. and J. Russell. My love to Dr. Ball; it is very pleasant that he continues to feel so much interest in our movements.

5 mo. 22. Friends are extremely kind, and anxious that my mind may be relieved; but I do exceedingly feel the burden of the concern, as it regards Friends and others. Yesterday we were at both meetings in the city, and that at Monkstown in the evening; it was a deeply exercising day.

5 mo. 26, Ballitore. It is a little singular that, in this beautifully situated village, the neatest and most inviting that I have seen in Ireland, where there are ten families of Friends, only one meeting, to which the public have been invited, can be remembered since that held by Job Scott in 1792; and *it* was held by H. C. Backhouse *fourteen* years ago.

5 mo. 29, Carlow. At Ballitore, we dined with our kind and excellent friend Elizabeth Barrington. The meeting was well attended; many of the poor Romanists were there, and it was a good meeting. The Church of England curate and the schoolmaster breakfasted with us at George Shackleton's; they are solid men, and I hope that no discouragement to the right mind in them was administered.

6 mo. 3, Cooladine. On third-day evening we held a meeting [in the hall] of one of the mills at Tullow. Friends thought that but few would attend, besides the very few Protestants in the place. We were, however, favoured with the company of a large number of Roman Catholics, and it proved a good time. The

people were intensely attentive, and a great solemnity was to be felt. We lodged at M. Lecky's, at Kilnock, and the next day were at Kilconnor meeting; in the evening we had a full public one, wherein was to be felt the powerful influence of Divine love, wonderfully poured out. Here we are at the house of our aged friend Thomas Thompson. I slept well last night, and am well this morning, though the prospect of a public meeting at Enniscorthy, etc., is heavy on my mind. It is a serious thing to be thus exercised from day to day; and most important are our movements among Friends here, who have been placed in very difficult circumstances."

6 mo. 13, Waterford. After enumerating several meetings, he writes:—"None of these were large, but I think we may thankfully say that they were owned by the Divine presence, and they have been, in measure, relieving to my mind, but the darkness of this land, especially in some places, is really to be felt. We meet with some pleasant and religiously exercised Friends, but I fear that a few years more will sweep many into the mass of the people, for they maintain but few of the testimonies into which a love of the Truth led our first Friends. I am well, but I cannot say much of any particular degree of comfort which I enjoy, because I so much feel the sunk and degraded condition of the bulk of the population.

6 mo. 17, Springfield. We are now under the hospitable roof of our kind friends A. and J. Fisher. Our moving along, since my last, has been under an increasing sense of the dreadful oppression of this

people by their spiritual rulers. When at Dungarvon, the town was literally filled with a dense crowd from the surrounding country, come to hear mass, and to amuse themselves on a popish holiday. Very few came to our meeting, which was discouraging; one intelligent young Roman Catholic appeared to be absorbed in deep interest; he had previously asked R. Charlton for a Testament, for his own perusal. Yesterday we had a beautiful ride over the mountains, to this place. I am tempted to wish that I could believe I might now return home, for it is much against my inclination to go to the city of Cork, etc.; but I am afraid of leaving undone the little which we may be able to effect, and thereby laying the groundwork for repentance.

6 mo. 24, Cork. On our return here this morning, after several days' absence, I find thy letters containing much painful information; that which more immediately concerns us is respecting our dear son Joseph. I really fear lest his constitution should yield to these repeated attacks. On our arrival here, we were met by our kind friend W. Harvey, who conducted us to his house. We have since been at Macroom, etc. On Lord Doneraile's domain is a very good, well-conducted school for 240 boys, which is maintained at his expense. We have had a trying week, and the prospect of a meeting here, with the people, is very weighty on my mind.

6 mo. 26, First-day. The meeting with Friends was a very relieving one; in the evening was a large public one, wherein, I believe, I was enabled to dis-

pense some counsel designed for the poor Romanists, a number of whom were present."

He had a satisfactory meeting in the Court-house in Mitchellstown; and afterwards attended those of Friends at Cahir, Clonmel, and Waterford, whence he crossed to Bristol, arriving at home on the 2nd of 7 mo. The next day he writes:—

"Bristol, 1843, 7 mo. 3. The three last meetings led me more fully to believe that the service was not wholly confined to those out of our Society. I am very desirous that there may be more disposition in many to bow under the chastening and enlightening power of truth, before the rod of judgment may fall heavily on the transgressing nature which is, under various forms, leavening into itself. Though I mourn over Ireland, whether regarded as a land of popery and superstition, or as very much of a desolation with respect to Protestantism generally, or as to the unfaithfulness among those under *our* name, yet I feel much satisfaction in not having so yielded to discouragement as to omit this effort to discharge my duty in that country.

Bristol, 12, 7 mo. 1843.

My dear brother and sister Backhouse,—

My journey in Ireland was attended with circumstances of peculiar trial, and happily for me, with much to humble and abase; yet I am enabled to hope that the great and good cause may not have suffered on any occasion, and I entertain a belief that, in some instances, the opportunities will be remembered as seasons of Divine favour. At the meetings with Friends,

I was introduced into a more deep exercise of spirit than I had anticipated, and I think that, if it were only for these engagements, I could not regret having given up to the service. Friends were exceedingly kind. Your affectionate brother, S. C."

TO A FRIEND IN IRELAND.

"*Bristol*, 14, 8 mo. 1843.

My dear Friend,—I have often thought that it would be pleasant to me to acknowledge the sense I have of thy great kindness to me, and my companion, when we abode under thy roof. While in your land, I believe that I was sometimes permitted to enter, according to my measure, in suffering with the few deeply concerned members of our little church; and to wrestle, in unison with them, for the blessing. I have thought, my dear friend, that this is often thy portion, under various discouragements, and I desire the strengthening of thy hands. Thou wilt have, I believe, increasingly to feel the reponsibility of the influence of thy character and example: thou hast, I doubt not, seen it, and moved along in Godly fear and sincerity; but my apprehension is, that thou wilt have to take farther steps in the humiliating path of a self-denying follower of the Lord Jesus. I am very sensible that there are many members of our Society in Ireland who are amiable, kind, affectionate persons; those whom we cannot but love; and yet they are not *faithful* servants of Christ. Some live too much in accordance and friendship with the world and its spirit; professing self-denial, but practising indulgence and

self-gratification. There are others who are esteemed, and imagine themselves, far advanced as Christians, but who are more practisers of old customs, and adherents to ancient forms, than renewed in the spirit of their minds; and who, therefore, are altogether unable to distinguish the work of the Spirit in others; or to meet, in their own conduct and judgment, those new combinations of opinions and circumstances which are continually arising, and under which nothing short of the newness of life can enable us to stand upright. These two sets of professors occasion wonderful inconsistencies among our little number; and so it will be likely to continue, until there is a greater devotedness of soul, with less of a narrow, prejudiced consideration of things, which cramps the freedom of the motions of the Spirit of truth in the heart, and which rests in forms and prescribed rules. My soul desires that a real, deep, and living exercise may arise among you, for the prosperity of the truth as it is in Jesus."

CHAPTER IX.

1843, 1844.

LETTERS TO HIS CHILDREN, ETC.—TENT-MEETINGS ABOUT BRISTOL —VISITS THE FAMILIES OF FRIENDS IN BIRMINGHAM—DEATH OF HIS ELDEST SON.

S. CAPPER had the comfort of perceiving that his youngest son was making advances in his spiritual course. He was accustomed to advise freely with his father in his difficulties, and it appears that he now had an apprehension of being called to the ministry, and had written on this subject; to which letter his father replied as follows:—

"*Bristol*, 17, 9 mo. 1843.

MY DEAR THOMAS,—It will not be much surprise to thee that I have taken time for answering thy last letter; the thing is of too much importance hastily to advise upon. Reflecting on the subject, I have considered that, in every stage of our Christian progress, the enemy is busy with his baits; there is the danger of abstaining from the performance of what appears right to be done, and the danger of mistaking, and thus running unbidden. There is also the danger, after moving in a right direction, of being betrayed into a wrong feeling, from indulging a desire for a part of the honour due alone to the Head of the church. There is, moreover, the danger of not sufficiently trying the fleece, or of persisting in so doing after the Divine

will is well known. To escape all these snares requires that we should be watchful for the discoveries of Divine light, and resigned to follow them when favoured with them; and that, when we have long to wait and to fast, we should wash and anoint, and keep the word of the Lord's patience; and, as we are *each* dealt with by our Lord and Master *individually*, it is most important that we should not be copiers one of another, but know for ourselves what the Spirit saith. In my own case, I had a view of the work for seven years before I believe that the time arrived to enter upon it; and then I had long to be exercised in a small and feeble way, and to learn that strength is bestowed when we are in the greatest weakness, in order that we may learn to give all the honour where it is due, and to attribute nothing to ourselves. I believe it is much the safest to have few confidants in our religious exercises; to dwell alone and keep silence on such matters, except when the way seems rightly opened. I am, however, quite comfortable, and even rejoiced, that thou hast such a kind, sympathizing friend and mother as thy mistress, to whom thou canst open thy mind on subjects of such vast importance. Dear Joseph seems discouraged about his recovery, which has a considerable effect on his mind, leading him to solid thoughtfulness about his condition. I don't mean that he has been thoughtless for a long time past; but there are different degrees of solidity and weightiness of spirit. Patty had a letter from thee on sixth-day, but the contents did not transpire.

Thy affectionate Father."

To another of his children he thus writes:—

"*Bristol*, 17, 10 mo. 1843.

My dear ——, I think I can, in some degree, enter into thy feelings, having been similarly tried myself. Unfaithfulness is an inroad to much evil; for, if that which is in its origin right be omitted, that which is in its origin wrong will often intrude; but I believe it is good for us to have much 'searching of heart.' I think, when we are fearful that we have withstood the right motion, it is well to be willing to endure the feeling of penitence; it prepares and softens the mind for impressions of the Spirit. We can never be too lowly or humble. I am glad to be able a little to sympathize with thee in thy exercises."

Thus, as a truly Christian parent, did he counsel and nurture his family; tenderly feeling with them in their various difficulties, and administering to each that which he thought they needed. Surely, on such labour a blessing would rest!

Again he writes to his youngest son:—

"*Bristol*, 24, 10 mo. 1843.

. . . . Thy brother Joseph continues very poorly. The last hours which I passed with him were very pleasant, and I am comforted in the belief that he will be prepared for his change, whenever it may take place.

My dear son! as regards thy own conflicts and baptisms, thou art doubtless aware, as I am (though perhaps not quite so fully) how unable we are to assist

each other, and that what we attempt, in our own way or time, is very unavailing; indeed, more frequently tends to weaken than to strengthen. One thing I may safely say, viz., that, when we 'clearly see the Lord's will,' there can be no doubt that it should be done; yet I have often found that there is, at times, a clear sight of what is to be our actual experience at a future time; and that we must not only see the thing required, but also the time for it; and I am disposed to believe that there is, not unfrequently, a great degree of suffering undergone for want of a true experience of what it is to keep the word of the Lord's patience; to be found weightily affected in spirit with the preparation for the work, waiting the word of command. That thou mayst be favoured to keep a single eye to the leader of His people is my earnest desire for thee. Self will be creeping in at every opening, and mixing with even that which opened in the light of life. Humility, real nothingness of self, is the only safe place; I wish thou mayst early find it, and steadily abide in it. What a providential blessing it is that thou wast placed where thou art! On reading what thou sayst of the refreshment experienced in silence, I have afresh thought, what a privilege those lose who suppose that our spiritual growth is only to be promoted by reading, talking, or hearing.

Bristol, 24, 10 mo. 1843.

MY DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER W. NAISH,—

We have been closely engaged, as well as very closely tried, with various things. Joseph continues

very ill, and we begin to be disheartened as to his recovery. He has, by advice, taken up his residence at Weston-super-Mare. He appears peaceful, and to contemplate a *short* tarriance *here* with resignation: on the whole, we are comforted about him, though we feel much for his sufferings.

I wrote thus far early this morning, and now wish to finish, though the day's business has fatigued me. I cannot but unite with my brother in his sentiments about our Society and the professors of Christianity generally; but I entertain, as I think he appears in degree to do, a firm belief that the day is near when the church militant will take a step in advance. Some great gospel truths will be more fully admitted, and will have the effect of almost overturning the present *systems* of religion, grafted upon Christianity. One is, that the absolute inconsistency of governing, on any other than Christian principles, will be so generally acknowledged, that many of the practices of politicians will be altogether inadmissible, on account of public feeling; such, for instance, as going to war, keeping slaves, and the connexion of church and state. Another is, the utter inconsistency of a paid ministry with gospel principles; and the truth of the guidance of the Spirit, in a sense not now generally received.

Your affectionate brother, S. C.

Bristol, 14, 12 mo. 1843.

My dear Thomas,—Perhaps thy master would tell thee that I was at Cirencester, to which place I went at considerable inconvenience, but I did not feel

as if I could comfortably stay away, though we have so many things upon us now at home. Thy mistress told me that thy health is not quite as she would wish it to be, and that thou art often low in spirits. I consider it a special favour, when, during the buoyant season of youth, there is such an abiding sense of the holiness of God, of our own proneness to forget Him, and of the necessity for receiving daily supplies of Divine grace, from the inexhaustible Fountain, as keeps the mind humble and watchful; but I believe that, when we are under these solemn impressions, our unwearied adversary takes another mode of assault, and would incite us to such an abstraction of mind as creates a morbid desire to be continually lamenting our condition. We have duties of various kinds to perform, and we act, as I believe, most consistently with the Divine will when we conscientiously endeavour to fulfil them *all*, to the best of our knowledge, applying the respective faculties to their appropriate purposes; judging of those things which are in the province of reason by that invaluable faculty; but, in spiritual matters, ever remembering that there are points which reason cannot reach. I believe that one of our prominent duties is to do whatever we properly can, in order to maintain our bodily and intellectual powers in a vigorous state of health, and that this condition is favourable to our spiritual growth and fruitfulness. I would therefore advise thee, as often as right opportunities present, to take exercise, and to cherish the natural enjoyment to be derived from the effects of fresh air, with a thankful heart. I would

also particularly recommend thee to fix on one or two desirable acquisitions, and steadily to pursue them, at such intervals as can be appropriated to such purposes, without the neglect of other things. Thy mistress told me that thou hadst thought of improving thyself in the French language, and that she thought that thou mightst, very advantageously, study arithmetic farther. Now both these pursuits are not only very useful, but most desirable; I might almost say the latter is indispensable. In my circumstances, if it were not for some knowledge which is not possessed by all, the little matters which I now accomplish would be out of my power. From some observations in thy last, I think thou wilt be likely to unite in these views. I approve of thy caution, in so weighty a concern as that which presents itself to thy mind. I believe we shall not be suffered to go very far wrong, while we are simply and resignedly waiting, without a secret reserve for the fulfilment of our own will. I have often thought that there is a lesson of wonderful instruction in the saying of our blessed Redeemer, 'My judgment is just, because I seek not mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me.'

Bristol, 16, 5 mo. 1844.

My dear Thomas,—I intend going to London, and, if Joseph should continue as well as he is now, may stay a considerable part of the yearly meeting. I feel for thee in the commencement of thy Christian warfare, and think it is well that thou hast so kind

and watchful a friend as thy mistress; yet I am pleased to find that thou art aware that it is important not to be hasty in speaking of our exercises, even to those whom we love and esteem. I apprehend that I have known instances where the strength has been wasted by such a practice. I am inclined to believe that the most healthful state is one in which the soul is preserved from dependence on any other help but the arm of the good Shepherd. I have obtained leave to hold public meetings, chiefly near Bristol. Now, as heretofore, I have been not a little discouraged in looking to this service, from a fear lest I should slip aside, in any way, from the performance, in simplicity, of that which is given me to do.

Martha has told thee how much better Joseph appears. It is cheering to feel that the great end of all affliction has been, at least measurably, answered in his case. By what thou sayst, I perceive that thou hast the same ordeal to pass through which others have experienced, and still do experience, and hast to 'try the fleece wet and dry.' This is well, but it must not be practised after the object has been attained, viz., the conviction of a service being required; I have found great weakness to result. H. C. Backhouse's visit has been very acceptable, and I hope edifying. I left thy mother with Joseph at Weston, where they will probably remain some time.

Thy affectionate Father."

He did attend the yearly meeting, and wrote from London to his wife:—

"*London*, 30, 5 mo. 1844.

My dear Elizabeth,—It was quite a relief to have your letters, and I hope there will be no unfavourable change in Joseph's health. Yesterday I went to our old, accustomed place of worship, Gracechurch Street. There was a good deal of ministry; more of the refreshing than of the deep order, according to my feelings. I dined at C. Hanbury's, with my sister Sarah, John Whiting and wife, and many others. It was very pleasant, and strongly recalled years that are past."

After his return home he was engaged in holding tent-meetings about Bristol; and in the autumn he entered upon a visit to the families of Friends at Birmingham, whence he writes to his wife:—

"*Birmingham*, 12, 11 mo. 1844.

My dear Elizabeth,—On my journey, I was much disposed to muse, and little occurred to interrupt till we arrived at Cheltenham. There I was joined by a very intelligent woman, of the higher class of society. She discoursed on the state of the church of which she is a member, on the Puseyite tendency of many of the clergy, etc.; but alas! amid all this intelligence and knowledge, I could not but apprehend that she was sadly unacquainted with the comfort of the Holy Spirit. She was attending upon a mother, aged eighty-two, at Birmingham, and watching a dying sister, the mother of a family, at Cheltenham, under the expectation that the latter can only

survive a few weeks. Ah! I thought how she wanted the sustaining hope that her sister was prepared for her change! This, it appeared, she had not, and was depending upon the ministrations of the clergyman.

Soon after my arrival I was introduced to my friend Mary Lloyd, who has a concern on her mind to unite in the family-visit, which feels very comfortable to me, and she will apply to the monthly meeting to-morrow for leave to accompany me.

13th. Thou wilt be pleased to hear that this was united with, and we are to commence to-morrow. I have been about an hour with our dear aunt Mary Capper, who is feeble, but calm and peaceful.

Thy affectionate Husband."

TO HIS YOUNGEST SON.

"*Birmingham*, 19, 11 mo. 1844.

My dear Thomas,—I remember thy desire to hear from me, and feel disposed to give thee that proof of my affection. It is now about 11 o'clock P. M., and I am come up-stairs to rest. Thou mayst have heard that I have been joined, in the solemn engagement of visiting families here, by my dear friend Mary S. Lloyd. Thou wilt apprehend that such a service can hardly be proceeded in without the spirit being often deeply baptized, as it were, for the dead; the exercises are beyond what I could describe. We have, however, the comfort to feel that, notwithstanding many infirmities of flesh and spirit, and also much poverty of spirit, there is a peace which passeth the human understanding."

TO HIS WIFE.

"*Birmingham*, 29, 11 mo. 1844.

My dear Elizabeth,—My present intention is to go to the monthly meeting at Shipston, and to attend some small meetings.

12 mo. 1. We still have to acknowledge gracious help in the visits; also to be thankful for the defence of many humbling seasons.

3rd, Shipston. I came here alone by coach; the retirement was refreshing, and I think a renewed evidence was granted that I am not moving in my own will. A public meeting is fixed for this evening.

4th. In the meeting, I was led to contrast the general admission of the right of Christ to reign in his church with the practical denial of that sovereignty, by the appointment of man to offices in the church for which, contrary to Christ's command, they pay, and thus corrupt the office of minister; also to contrast, in the same way, the individual admission, by Christians generally, of our personal obligation to obey Christ, with the practical denial of this, by not waiting upon the Spirit of truth for direction and strength. I afterwards found that the curate of a neighbouring village, and a Baptist and Wesleyan preacher, were present.

On fifth-day I was at meeting at Campden; a kind friend, who had come five or six miles to attend it, took me home in his cart; it was very pleasant to be under the roof of these simple-hearted people. He has a sweet wife, and four nice little children. The

next day, he conveyed me to Tredington. On our way we saw Armscott meeting-house. It is in an interesting situation, in many respects, and I hope it will be clearly seen to be right before a public meeting there, once in the year, is given up. I was met by John Gillett, of Brailes, with his beautiful little four-wheeled carriage and pair of capital ponies, who brought me to his father's house. We had a public meeting, which, through renewed mercy, was a time to be thankful for. Joseph Gillett, his wife, etc., came over, and the former took part in the meeting.

12 mo. 9, Birmingham. I was very glad of thy letter, but I wish I knew more clearly how Joseph is: however, I now hope that we shall soon meet.

12 mo. 14, Leicester. The family-visit at Birmingham was concluded yesterday with seven deeply interesting sittings. I have now entered upon another very arduous undertaking; it will be a close week's work. I am really affected in hearing of the condition of our dear cousin Wm. Gundry, of M. Gundry, jun., etc. It seems very solemn for the shafts of death to be thus hovering over our friends; and perhaps, though less visibly, over ourselves. It is quite a relief to me to find that you are all pretty well. The thermometer here varies from 3° to 25°. I do not know how to get on faster than I do.

Thine affectionately."

Joseph Capper's health had been so far restored that he had some time previously gone to Exeter, at the request of Thomas Knott, to assist him in his

business. He returned home during the very inclement weather; and this exposure to the cold appeared to be the cause of a violent attack of erysipelas, which carried him off, after a short season of suffering. He only survived long enough for his dear father to witness his close; and this was a deep trial to his paternal feelings. Joseph had long been afflicted, and his father had sympathized, not only in his bodily pain and weakness, but in the mental conflicts through which he had been passing; so that it would have been especially comforting for them to have been together when nature was failing, and he was approaching the end of all things here; but his father had the consolation of a full belief that he had put on Christ, and was found in Him, at that awful moment when no other refuge can avail.

On receiving the account of his alarming illness, S. Capper hastened home, and arrived there early in the morning of the 21st. To his nephew at Birmingham, he gives the following account of the scene which awaited him:—

"*Bristol*, 21, 12 mo. 1844.

My dear Arthur,—Thou wilt be grieved to learn that, when I reached home, I found that dear Joseph was nearly blind and deaf, from the erysipelas; and I am not sure that he recognised me. He was almost unable to articulate, and laboured much in breathing. The medical man thought that he would not live through the day. Thou mayst imagine, but I think canst not to the full conceive, the intense interest with which thy aunt and I, with his three brothers

and Martha, watched his declining powers. He sweetly drew his last breath about two o'clock. My mind, though very calm, is not in a state to enlarge much. We have our hearts full of grief, for the loss of one whom we loved so much, and of thankfulness in the certain hope of his peace and joy."

One of his brothers wrote as follows:—

"*Bristol*, 22, 12 mo. 1844.

My dear Aunt,—Thou canst hardly think how relieving and comforting it was to us, to have my dear father at home during the last morning of dear Joseph's life. He accomplished it by travelling in a night train. My mother has been much overdone with anxiety, etc., but I hope that, with rest and quiet, she may soon recover. It is indeed an unspeakable comfort that we are able to believe that the sufferings which my dear brother had long endured have been blest to him, and that he had experienced a change of heart. The irritability occasioned by the disease was great, but he was extremely desirous that he might bear it with patience, and petitioned to be enabled so to do. He was thirty-eight years old."

SAMUEL CAPPER TO JOHN CAPPER.

"*Bristol*, 25, 12 mo. 1844.

My dear Brother,—Thy kind letter reached us this morning, with its enclosure. I am much obliged by thy thoughtfulness, as regards the present necessary demand on our resources. It will enable me to do what otherwise I could not, and what I much desired to accomplish. It may be a satisfaction to

thee to know that Joseph insured his life, in the Friends' Provident Institution, many years ago, and that we have contrived to keep up the payments. His little girls are with us.

Bristol, 31, 12 mo. 1844.

My dear brother John,—Thou wouldst probably hear that the day of interment was such as we are thankful for. Since then, my son Samuel and I have been closely engaged in arranging the matters of our little business, which, during my absence and dear Joseph's illness, etc., had accumulated and required attention. Joseph's particular friend, with whom in 1830 he went to Barbadoes, our cousin Edmund Naish, died rather suddenly, on first-day. It is remarkable that their deaths should only be about a week apart. I have not heard any of those particulars which are the most interesting to such as feel that they must shortly follow. The interment is to be in the little burying-ground belonging to the family, at Bourton. How much I should enjoy thy being with us on the occasion! I made a short visit to our old friend and valued relation Thomas Sanders to-day; it was very pleasant to find that he was familiar with the anticipation of death, and to believe that, to him, the pale messenger is disarmed of his terrors, and that he is resignedly waiting his dismissal from this state of being. I thought, much as thou didst, of the evening of the 24th,* when our dear father put on a glorious immortality. Thy affectionate brother,

Samuel Capper."

* The anniversary of Jasper Capper's death, 24, 12 mo. 1819. See p. 20.

CHAPTER X.

1845—1850.

AGAIN VISITS IRELAND—HOLDS PUBLIC MEETINGS IN CORNWALL, ETC. ETC.—DEATH OF HIS SISTER ROBSON.

TO ONE OF HIS DAUGHTERS.

"*Bristol*, 11, 1 mo. 1845.

My dear ——, It is sometimes agreeable, perhaps profitable, to compare our feelings; it may encourage us to a more simple surrender of our wills to those impressions which we find, by experience, have been in accordance with the perceptions of others, and as we hope with the Divine will. It may be pleasant to thee to know that I waited for some time, under an apprehension that some one had a commission to open the meeting on fourth-day. At length, I felt that I could not safely wait longer, lest some mistaken person should infringe on right order, and injure the meeting by disturbing the current of life. But I am often brought to the point, from the sense that a meeting may be hurt by withholding, as well as by a mistaken interference. These things require deep watchfulness of spirit. Thy affectionate Father."

At the interment of his brother Joseph, Thomas first spoke as a minister; and to this his father alludes in the following letter:—

"*Bristol*, 11, 1 mo. 1845.

My dear Thomas,—Thou wilt readily believe that I was not unmoved by the circumstances under which thou wast and art placed. I felt much for thee, but it did not appear to me that I could render thee any real service by conversation; and now I am well satisfied, as I perceive that the dangers on either hand have presented themselves to thy mind. The danger for thee may be having the mind elated; though what a mistake to be *elated* at a *gift!* I remember, some years ago, having a very favoured public meeting, at which was present a missionary from the West Indies. He seemed delighted with it, and said he longed to take a part in it; seeming to be unacquainted with the truth that it is only as the Anointing teaches that the word is made effectual; and that the most able human efforts are unavailing to produce life. But he afterwards told me an anecdote of John Bunyan which was instructive, and is well to remember. I believe he (J. B.) generally preached extempore; and I also entertain no doubt that, although he was not aware of the *necessity* of waiting for power from on high, he often did so wait, and was favoured with it. One day he preached a sermon which was greatly admired. Some one met him at the pulpit stairs, and said, 'Mr. Bunyan, what a beautiful sermon you have delivered!'—'Yes,' he replied, 'the devil told me that, before I came down.'

I have been poorly, but am better. Last first-day was the interment of P. D. T.'s daughter, and last fourth-day of Elizabeth Tuckett, at Frenchay. The

principal service lay upon me in both cases. It is a great comfort to me that, on these occasions, I was brought down very low; and that, in the course of the exercise, I had to follow the opening, sentence by sentence.—My dear love to thy master and mistress. I wish I could have seen Emma when here."

Thus touchingly and tenderly did he watch over his children; warning them of dangers, and cherishing their youthful desires to serve the same Lord to whom *he* had long dedicated his all, and who had so largely blest him in his spiritual course.

Soon after the above date, S. Capper, accompanied by his wife, returned to Birmingham, in order to complete his service in those parts, and then proceeded to the yearly meeting. While in attendance there he sent some account of it to Dr. Ball, whence the following is extracted:—

"London, 5, 21, 1845. The meeting of ministers and elders was a very solemn one. Rachel Priestman gave in certificates from America, with a lively account of her exercises there. Wm. Forster gave a short description of his movements in Normandy, etc., which was to me very interesting, as a wide door seems open, in that country, for the reception of Christian truth, in its simplicity. In the evening I attended the peace meeting. The principles of peace appear to be making way; perhaps as much from a conviction of the impolicy and costliness of war, as from any purely religious sentiment.

The yearly meeting was opened by a short and

simple prayer, from Wm. Gundry, for Divine assistance during the deliberations of the Body. The American epistles appeared to me particularly lively; and the one from North Carolina mentioned an act of moral courage of which some would hardly have thought them capable; that of ordering a reprint of the address of our yearly meeting on slavery, for general distribution. When we recollect what an unflinching and pointed document that is, it does prove much decision in the cause of anti-slavery advocacy. The Indiana yearly meeting had also ordered 10,000 of these addresses for general distribution. The epistles contained kind and conciliatory expressions regarding those Friends who have separated from them. In the committee, it was concluded that the Friends appointed on the Indiana epistle should be requested to prepare an address of brotherly expostulation with the seceders. The conference on this subject was long, and conducted under a feeling which leads me to be very hopeful of the result. Wm. Forster took a prominent part.

5 mo. 22. Testimonies concerning Wm. Backhouse, Wm. Moyse, Eliz. Fry, etc., were read. I was much struck by the evidence which they afforded of the power of Divine grace, to guide through paths so very various as these Friends were led into, and under such diversified difficulties. One of the most solemnly impressive occasions which I ever witnessed, was our conference on the address to the separatists of Indiana.

26. The committee on Indiana sat twice this day;

the minds of Friends are so deeply interested in the subject that they seem as if they could not quit the consideration until they discover what ought to be done to effect a reconciliation.

30. This has been a day of solemn exercise, both in the committee and in the meeting, on the subject of Indiana, the result of which was the appointment of a few Friends to pay them a visit, in brotherly love; viz., Josiah and William Forster, George Stacey, and John Allen. There was an unbroken flow of affectionate sympathy with the deputation, and concern for the success of the mission."

TO A FRIEND.

"*Bristol*, 15, 7 mo. 1845.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—My mind has often visited thee, and retraced the short time spent in thy company, and realized, in serious consideration, thy circumstances, both of influence in general society, and of relative position in our own religious communion; as well as the difficulties arising from the tendencies of those with whom thou art necessarily brought into association. In my thoughts on these things, and desires for thy attainment of the fulness of stature designed thee in Christ Jesus, I have felt that in thy case, as in my own and that of every servant, if we would be found truly walking in the way cast up for the redeemed, there will be much of the cross to be endured; and I have been cheered by the information, contained in thine, of the sweetness with which thou art enabled to 'rejoice in the Lord and joy in the God of thy

salvation.' I trust that this our confidence will be vouchsafed to us even to the end, through those trials which may yet be our portion; for I sometimes feel that, under circumstances of discouragement and difficulty, when the way appears hedged up, the light withdrawn, and hope very low, there is a secret and *blessed confidence* (though very humble and often stript of joy), which sustains in a belief that the Lord's arm of everlasting power and love is underneath, and that He will preserve his own. The belief that we are of the number of his children is unspeakably precious. We ought to entertain it with diffidence; but I do think that, at times, we may confess to one another, in the freedom of brethren and sisters, that such is our assurance. I salute thee, my dear friend, in gospel nearness, and bid thee good speed on thy spiritual journey, in the name of our blessed Redeemer.

The day that thy letter was written, I was, with my wife, attending the interment of an aged aunt, Mary Capper; one who was full of days (in her ninety-first year) and whose life had been devoted to the service of Him who called her early into the vineyard, and who, in a wonderful manner, delivered her out of strong temptations, and much suffering. Her latter days seemed to be attended with a feeling of almost uninterrupted thankfulness and praise. Since our return home, I have had some close engagements in business, to which I am in duty bound to attend, for the necessities of the body, when not employed in service from home."

DIARY, ETC.

"1845, 9 mo. 25. Was at my niece Maria Gundry's interment. This dear young woman died of typhus fever.

28. Attended the interment of my sister Martha Gundry; she died of typhus fever. It was a very impressive thing to be at two interments, in the same family, in such quick succession. 'Be ye also ready' seems to be sounded in our ears.

Bristol, 24, 11 mo. 1845.

MY DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER W. AND F. NAISH,—

We were all pleased to find that your journey was unattended by the fatigue which is sometimes experienced when *old folks* gad abroad. If your visit be as gratifying in the performance and retrospect as that to Bristol, I should hope that you will be satisfied in having devoted so much time to your children and other near relations. Your company has been a refreshment to me, for, although I readily admit that I have very much to be thankful for, yet my mind is often deeply occupied with personal, family, and Society, not to say national subjects of vast importance, which tend to wear the spirits. Not that I apprehend that any way in which I could be engaged would materially affect the happiness, melioration, or prosperity of mankind at large, or of our religious Society; but I have a strong apprehension that every person has an allotted portion of suffering to pass through, and labour to perform; and that it is of most serious import, to him or her, to be watchful to know

what that is, and faithful to perform or endure it; and then the results, whether they be great or small, or apparently none, may safely be left. Now that I begin to feel my energies on the decline, it seems to me the more necessary to let no time go, in which any little thing may be done, lest no future opportunity should offer to repair the neglect.

Bristol, 5, 12 mo. 1845.

My dear brother John Backhouse,—Thou hast indeed taken the most effectual means of relieving my mind. I have heretofore been sensible of thy great kindness and liberality, having largely tended to soften the difficulties under which I have, for years, been placed. My dear sister will, with thee, be pleased to learn that we hope our circumstances will now be comparatively easy. It is a great relief to me, in the prospect of leaving home for Ireland. I feel a comfortable reliance that I shall be helped with a little help, from time to time; and, although sensible of the difficulties and delicacy of the undertaking, am willing to apply myself, with a degree of cheerfulness to the work. Thy affectionate brother, S. Capper."

Samuel Capper's mind having again been brought under exercise respecting Friends and others in Ireland, he obtained a certificate, liberating him for religious service among them, and left home early in 1846. The following are extracts from his letters to his wife.

"*Belfast*, 16, 1 mo. 1846.

My dear Elizabeth,—We had a beautiful run across in twelve hours. Our friend Henry Bragg

came over the water with Daniel Wheeler and me, and has invited us to stay at his house. This appears to be a thriving town; more like an English one than those in the south of Ireland. The hills, in many places, are wooded down to the margin of the water, and studded with pleasant country residences, among which, that of Sharman Crawford is conspicuous.

17. We are most kindly entertained. The family consists of H. Bragg's cheerful, contented, aged mother, about eighty-four; his nephew, an interesting young man, his sweet young niece, and a very kind housekeeper. D. Wheeler intended leaving on second-day, but I believe I must propose to visit families here. Belfast has a population of about 100,000. The dreadful scourge of popery does not extend over more than a third of the number. In order to stamp its character, no more seems necessary than to observe the effects where it is dominant, which appear on the very surface.

19. The family-visit was commenced last evening. I do hope that there are those in this place who may, at a future day, faithfully uphold the testimonies of truth; for so I am thankful to believe they will be confessed to be.

20. My host, John Pim, has accompanied me to W. J. Barcroft's, near Grange meeting-house. I paid ten visits at Belfast, to which place I expect to return. Many of these were heart-melting times. It is gracious condescension in the great Head of his church thus to pour out his blessing upon us; the richness of his goodness must be left untold; it is only to be *felt*.

21. Grange meeting reminds me of Claverham; being mostly composed of persons engaged in agriculture. Roan Hill is now only occupied by a caretaker, and an aged female minister. She was unwell, and W. Greer's widow took me to see her, when I was gratified by a sight of the noble domain. Of the meeting for worship I have a peaceful remembrance.

22. After passing the day at Rich Hill, we returned to Belfast.

26. What a variety is met with in such an engagement as this! variety as to outward appearance, as to intellect, and, in an especial manner, as to the state of the mind! It is not surprising that, in the exercises to be passed through in order to prepare for administering to such a variety of states, much conflict should be needful; and it is well to be kept in a humble state, that nothing may mar the work.

30. Yesterday, my kind hostess, who is an elder, went with me to the monthly meeting at Lisburn. Dr. Hancock dined with me at Mary Richardson's, and was much interested about Dr. Ball, etc. In his usual earnest and affectionate manner, he reverted to the past, and seemed to delight in the remembrance of my parents, sister Rebecca Bevan, etc. The family-visit here is now nearly completed. It will be some trial to part from my kind friends, in whose welfare I take so tender an interest.

31, Glenmore. Here I have been most kindly received. The place is complete, as a residence even for a nobleman, and much out of my sphere. I hope, however, to be contented in every condition into which

my present engagement may introduce me, and to discharge with faithfulness all that may be laid upon me. I have not had an idle day, nor a day that has wanted intense interest.

2 mo. 1, First-day. After the first meeting, which was at eleven o'clock, I was with M. Richardson for about an hour, and went to meeting again at two o'clock. I am not reconciled to this concentration of the time for worship, though there may be convenience in it. I feel as if the time between the meetings might not always be sufficient to allow the mind to return to the duty with energy. To-day, however, through condescending mercy, I believe I was permitted to have my mind stayed on the Source of all good, and I trust and believe that the commission was received to preach the gospel. I dined with Dr. Hancock, which I much enjoyed; his two amiable daughters were with him. I returned to J. N. Richardson's at Glenmore to tea, and the evening has been spent pleasantly, and I hope not unprofitably.

5, Lurgan. After holding a public meeting at Lower Grange, I visited Ballinderry meeting, where I believe the good Master was pleased to be with us. My kind host, James Green, took me to Jacob Green's; he has two daughters very unwell. We took coffee in his neat, comfortable little dwelling, and he went with us to Brookfield school, which bids fair to be very useful in affording education to the numerous descendants of those who have, from various causes, forfeited their membership in our Society; many of whom are very poor.

2 mo. 7, Banford. My kind friend Rachel Haughton took me to make some calls near Moyallen; among the rest, to John Christy's, who is in affliction. Last night, one of his sons had to cross a river on his way home, and it is supposed that he fell in, his hat having been found near. To-day I have been to Rathfriland, a very interesting ride; the farm-houses good, and the people well-clad and thriving; a few ricks of corn on most farms—a thing rarely seen in the south of Ireland. The distant mountains formed a fine outline.

2 mo. 9. A large, favoured public meeting at Rich Hill.

11, Red Ford. W. J. Barcroft drove me to a place where dwell about five families of very poor people, most of them members of our Society, some of them having children. They live in small cabins, and occupy a few acres of land. They grow potatoes for their own food, and sell the flax, oats, etc., to pay rent. They also keep a cow or two. Friends are kind to them, and educate their children. They are about twenty in number, and we had, what I hope they might feel, a refreshing opportunity of worshipping with them. I have had a public meeting here. I am very stiff in my joints; otherwise well; but find it close work.

13, Roscommon. This day, under the care of my kind young friend James Pike, I have travelled upwards of fifty Irish miles, on the usual car, and am not a little fatigued. I have now finally left the prosperous north, and come among the miserable, degraded southern people.

14. Came to Ballymurry, to visit two aged widows, etc. One of them had had a fall, which '*considerably destroyed her*,' as she expressed it. It was an agreeable interview.

18. After attending several other meetings, I was at the monthly meeting at Montrath, which was a time of favour. I wish it may not be suffered to pass over as a thing of course, for I have no doubt that these occasions will rise up in judgment against us, if they do not produce fruit. My kind host James Pim took me to Montrath; he is a fine, hale old man, about seventy-five, and I believe feels much interest in the welfare of our Society.

2 mo. 24. [After being at Mountmellick, etc.] It had been suggested that Ballinakil being a very small meeting, I might, perhaps, feel at liberty to omit it. I was, however, glad that I sat down with the little interesting company; I believe it was right, and in the visit I had peace. I am well, but I begin to think more impatiently of home than I have done before.

26, Kilnock. Here I am entertained by M. J. Lecky with the most affectionate kindness, and feel that there is a real, deep sympathy in my exercises.

3 mo. 2, Ballitore. Visited dear Eliz. Barrington, a fine, lively minister, upwards of seventy.

8, Dublin. First-day. Was at both meetings, and had a religious opportunity with a large company at Samuel Bewley's, where I slept."

On the 10th, S. Capper returned home for a few weeks, after which he sailed again for Dublin, and proceeded to Enniscorthy, whence he writes:—

"4, 4 mo. 1846.

My dear Elizabeth,—Sixth-day was a cold, drizzling day for my journey here, so that the glen of the Downs, the vale of Avoca, and the meeting of the Waters, did not put on their most smiling aspect; but even the glimpse of them, all in coldness and tears, is very beautiful. I have been attending meetings at Cooladine and at Ballintore. It has been a day of much exercise of mind, but I am thankful to believe that my desire has been to perform what has been required in simplicity and faithfulness. I think it likely that W. Harvey will be my associate in the family-visit at Clonmel.

4 mo. 9, New Town, near Waterford. I am informed that W. Fennell is dead, and to be buried tomorrow, near Cahir, where I think it likely that I may be, though the prospect is a solemn one.

11, Clonmel. Yesterday, J. and L. Grubb accompanied me thirteen Irish miles to the residence of the late W. Fennell, the old seat of the Earl of Glengall; and a fine, ancient place it is. We had five miles to go to the burying-place, Ballybrado. I think we were about four hundred persons." After alluding to the multitude attracted by the occasion, he says, "Jacob Green and I thought it right to embrace the opportunity of laying a few plain truths before this poor, priest-ridden people. W. Harvey and I have to-day commenced the family-visit, and I have felt, more clearly than is usual for me, that the labour had been accepted, as a discharge of the debt due.

16. I feel low and tried this morning, but hope

that I shall be helped to the end of this service. W. Harvey is very kind and sympathizing.

1846, 4 mo. 17. I have not often felt so much peace as is now granted, after close exercise, and the discharge of the service laid upon me. Perhaps it may be allowed in order to refresh me, after having passed through much.

20, Limerick. The completion of the family-visit in Clonmel was truly exercising. I trust I am now clear.

25, Dublin. I am now an inmate with our kind friend H. Russell. Many English Friends have arrived to attend the yearly meeting: Samuel Tuke, Robert Lindsay, Joseph Fryer, Martha Thornhill, etc.

26, First-day. We were not without some tokens of the overshadowing of Divine goodness.

27. The report from Brookfield School was very satisfactory; at the cost of about £6 per head annually, it appears that fifty children are taken in many cases from much exposure to vice, and are introduced into industrious habits, and to the knowledge of gospel truth; in so much as man has the power to impart it. The results have been very delightful. Most of the children who have left the school are conducting themselves well, and some are very promising.

Thine, S. C."

TO HIS YOUNGEST SON.

"*Dublin*, 28, 4 mo. 1846.

My dear Thomas,—I must confess that thou hast been less present with me on this journey than on some former occasions; and indeed I feel as if I had

had enough to do to look to myself. My engagements have been in rapid succession, and of a very exercising nature, and I walk in the midst of strict observers, with dangers on every hand; much evil resulting from well-intentioned opposition to salutary practices; so that great care is necessary, in supporting what I believe to be right, not to weaken the hands of those who do not see as I do: I allude chiefly to the practice of total abstinence. I often entertain the hope, which thou expressest, that I may be preserved from injuring the good cause. I am glad of thy mistress's message of love; we need a little such refreshment, amid the buffetings that we meet with."

After returning from the Irish yearly meeting, Samuel Capper, accompanied by his wife, was at that in London, whence he wrote to Dr. Ball:—

"*London*, 20, 5 mo. 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND GAWEN BALL,—The yearly meeting of ministers and elders has liberated three Friends for service in Norway, one for the South of France, and one for North America.

5 mo. 21. Several testimonies concerning deceased Friends were read; among them, one for my aunt M. Capper—a childlike account of a childlike disciple; and one for Eliz. Fry—a very suitable description of her eventful life. The reading of these documents was instructive, and especially interesting to us, who feel ourselves drawing toward the same solemn period.

24, First-day. The meetings at Tottenham were large. In the morning there was much communicated;

in the evening less, and I thought there was a fuller sense of Divine power.

5 mo. 29. Samuel Tuke visited the women's meeting. The large committee sat in the afternoon, when there was some variety of opinion; we cannot but be thankful that the oil was constantly on the waters, both in the meeting and committee.

Thy affectionate friend, SAMUEL CAPPER."

Feeling an attraction to attend the quarterly meeting for Cornwall, before entering on a series of public meetings, S. Capper went to Liskeard, whence he writes to his wife:—

"*Liskeard*, 30, 6 mo. 1846.

MY DEAR ELIZABETH,—As far as Taunton, I had the company of a captain in the army, his wife, etc. He was a pleasing, mild man. I hope that a few observations, which the way opened to make, might recur to him, and occasion serious consideration. I was most kindly received by our valued friends, J. and E. Allen. I rose this morning under great discouragement; but I may thankfully say that, at meeting, so much life and power attended us that my doubts vanished like a mist before the sun.

7 mo. 1. I have just risen after a comfortable night's rest, never, I think, more impressed with a sense of the necessity for superior help and guidance, even in our deportment one toward another; that we may be preserved, seasoning each other, and may not be permitted, through want of watchfulness, to do or say anything which may fan an unhallowed zeal, or

strengthen a wrong birth in any. Wherever there are those who are conspicuous for their love and zeal, and who shine as lights, *there* the strength of the enemy is put forth to deceive, and to lead out of the way. May the Lord's power shield the living ones against his assaults, and secret invasions!

P. M. In the meeting, several were engaged in the ministry, and I believe the spirits of some were refreshed. It has been a peaceful day.

3. At Lymington, had a meeting in the tent. The people were serious, and I hope it was in right ordering.

7 mo. 8, Porlock. A more beautiful country than this I can hardly imagine; rich and fertile in the extreme, with very bold hills, and many of them well planted. But a dark, undisciplined spirit seems to abound. We have made our way rather to the surprise of some, as there is a great fear of the clergy and gentry. Thomas Short seems to enter much into my tried feelings, from the great responsibility of the undertaking, and the daily exercise of mind which is involved in the endeavour to discover our right path.

13, Ilfracombe. The meetings at Coomb Martin were blest; it was a day of deep exercise, but I feel as much at the prospect in this place, which is full of company, and I think is a place of high profession.

15, Torrington. The country is enchantingly beautiful, and rich in wild flowers of magnificent growth. At Braunton, the meeting was very large, and I think may be ranked among those where truth predominated; the living being refreshed, and the thoughtless aroused.

I am very well, but I cannot describe the exercise of spirit which I daily undergo. The repetition of meetings does not, I am glad to say, make me feel less solicitude for the anointing that alone can prepare for service; nor less sensible of the deep responsibility of the engagement. I hope that, when it is fulfilled, I may be favoured to reach home with a belief that the good cause has not suffered, and that Divine appointment, in the matter, has been followed. The meeting at Ilfracombe was, in its external features, a rough one. The place in which we fixed the tent proved too public, being a field through which persons go to the evening promenade; yet we had a very solemn meeting; many appeared to be seriously interested, and I believe were deeply solicitous that they might be true spiritual worshippers. To these the language of encouragement was addressed, and, on the whole, it was a relieving time, though gone through under no inconsiderable trial of mind. We came to Braunton yesterday. I hope to be at Stratton on first-day; I received the tracts and maps at Porlock. We have distributed about one thousand tracts.

7 mo. 18, Stratton. It is a trying service; but, if rightly engaged in, all that is to be endured ought to be suffered in patience.

21, Boscastle. On seventh-day evening, John Allen and his family arrived at Stratton. It was very pleasant to have their company; they are peculiarly suited to assist and sympathize. I believe that the two meetings at Stratton, on first-day, were satisfactory.

Thy affectionate Husband."

In this journey he held nineteen meetings, principally on the coast of Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall.

TO A FRIEND IN IRELAND.

"*Bristol*, 19, 10 mo. 1846.

My dear Friend,—My mind has often turned toward thee, and the few Friends of your neighbourhood, feeling much sympathy with you all, and being frequently bowed in earnest desire for your spiritual growth. Called, as I believe thou art, to exercise a beneficial influence among this little company, I am persuaded that the preparation for such service, and the preservation in such service, must be known through deep and hidden baptisms of spirit. Through these, my beloved friend, in days past thou hast been borne, and it may be that, at the present time, thou art passing through such. What condescension, in the Chief Shepherd, that He is pleased so to lead us about and instruct us! even as we are able to bear. It is a painful experience to watch those we love, with solemn solicitude that they may listen to the voice of this true Shepherd, and to see one and another deceived, deluded, and separated from the self-denying flock of the companions of Christ. Yes! it is truly painful; and we have need of the cheering rays of the Sun of righteousness, to sustain under the conflict and the grief; especially when, as I believe may sometimes be the case with thee, the language may be, 'By whom shall Jacob arise? Lord! what wilt thou do for thy great name?' Yet I think I feel that there are other times when thy soul rests, in con-

fidence, on the consoling assurance that the Lord will arise, and that his enemies shall be scattered; that in his own time He will come, and will not tarry. I have a sweet belief that thou art regarded with especial care, and that thy feet will be preserved firm on the Rock, amid the trials which may be permitted to await thee. I seem to visit all the Friends near thee individually, with brotherly affection, and to desire the removal of every obstacle to their maturing as Christians. Oh that the faculties and energies of all were devoted to the service of Him whom we acknowledge as our Master! I do not forget the lively young woman who accompanied us, though I do forget her name. The Lord loves early dedication of heart. I often mourn for the children of ——, and long to hear that the Good Shepherd has been pleased to extend the crook of his love, and draw them to Himself; that they have been made willing to yield to his gentle attractions, surrendering all those things against which the light of truth discovers that his controversy is. Thy affectionate friend, S. C.

Bristol, 15, 11 mo. 1846.

My dear son Thomas,—With respect to the most important subject of thy letter, it is no light matter to advise; but, upon reflecting on it, some thoughts have occurred, to which I may briefly advert. In thy present condition of youth and consequent inexperience, the whole weight of the counsel generally understood by allusion to the example of Gideon, when charged with an important embassy to the children of Israel, in his trying the fleece repeatedly, may safely be

recommended. Even should thy friends eventually think it right to express their belief of thy being called to the ministry, it may be long before they do so; and, until then, the way for thy putting in practice the views which appear to have occupied thy mind, would be beset with additional difficulties.

To me, however, the most solemn and weighty matter is the question whether it be truly a birth of the Spirit; and *then*, whether the time to bear the burden thyself may have been fully submitted to. If it should be thy portion to know more of this kind of engagement, I believe thou wilt find (at least I have found it so) that there is often a long season appointed to bear the burden, and that it is sometimes permitted that the prospect should be removed, as it were, to a distance, and again brought near, many times. It may be in order to check a hasty disposition, and to give exercise to patience and submission. I hope thou wilt be favoured to wait; to seek and to find the right thing, and the right time; to serve, either by action or by passive submission, the cause of Christ.

Thy affectionate Father."

In the summer of the next year Samuel Capper again felt engaged to hold meetings in the south-western parts of England, for which purpose he left his home on the 17th of 6 mo., accompanied by his kind and faithful friend Joseph Eaton. The following are extracts from letters to his wife:—

"*Liskeard*, 19, 6 mo. 1847.

My dear Elizabeth,—All is in train for two tent-meetings at Looe on first-day. I never felt the prospect

more humbling, I think I may say awful; and yet I do not doubt the propriety of making the attempt. I have thought, almost without ceasing (and often so as to adopt it), of our late dear cousin Eliz. Fry's prayer, 'Lord! keep and help thy servant!'

We have sat a short time, very pleasantly, with Samuel Rundell and his wife, both in their eighty-fourth year; also with John Waidge, in his eighty-fifth. I am very well; the day is fine, and I hope for the best for to-morrow.

Fowey, 6 mo. 22. On first-day, we were thankful to feel the owning of Divine love and power. Yesterday we came here by boat, and had a good meeting. It is a great comfort to be permitted to believe that I am in my right place.

25. Yesterday was the marriage of J. Allen's daughter; and a sweet, solemn, and I believe profitable day it proved. The bride's mother and the bridegroom's brother were both engaged to supplicate in the meeting, after which I had to set forth the simplicity of gospel practice, as regards marriage and the ministry; all being accomplished without the intervention of paid persons. I exhorted the members of our own Society to prize, and faithfully to maintain our privileges and testimonies; and others to be willing, as these Christian blessings were known, to embrace them, and to bear the cross which would certainly attend such a course of conduct. I was then, as George Fox might have said, moved to pray, and had a solemn season of access to the Father of spirits. The meeting was about concluding when John Allen,

in an address to the company present, among whom were many of the inhabitants of the place, acknowledged, very suitably and affectionately, his sense of the kind interest shown on the occasion, and expressed his solicitude for their true welfare and happiness.

6 mo. 30, Tregony. We have had the melancholy intelligence of the death of our dear friend Nehemiah Moore. I feel as if, had I known of the event, I could hardly have left home; so greatly do I feel the loss of one who had such a charge upon him! The distance is so great that I cannot be at the interment, and I could scarcely believe it right to break off from my present engagement. The widow and children have my sympathy very fully. We are now at this desolate place; a poor, dull, thinly inhabited village, misnamed a town. However, I hope that we are in our right places.

7 mo. 1. I have again to record the condescending goodness of the Head of his church. The unanimated borough of Tregony, with less than one thousand inhabitants, sent out about half that number to the meeting, which was a satisfactory one.

7 mo. 5, Falmouth. We were very kindly welcomed here by E. O. Tregelles and family. Two meetings were held in the tent on first-day, on the Bowling-green, which were very exercising. However, through Divine favour, they ended well, I believe. It is pleasant that Friends here appear to have good unity with the line in which I am led.

7 mo. 10. We attended the quarterly meeting at Liskeard, and were at the interment of John Waidge.

We are now at Helstone, where we expect to have two meetings to-morrow.

13. Since we left Falmouth, we have had the agreeable company of Charles Fox.

15, Penzance. A large and relieving meeting was held in the tent here last evening. Edmund Richards has just come to reside here; his sister came to the public meeting, and a very agreeable Methodist, from the village of Mousehole. These three sat by me. It would be very hot, if we had not fine sea-breezes. I encourage myself by the consideration that, as the month which we have been absent, with all its trials and perplexities, has passed over, so I may hope will the remaining time allotted to us in this visit. What an emblem of our passage through life! I sincerely desire that it may hold good; that there may be the same confident looking forward to rest from our labours.

7 mo. 23, Trewergies. Last night we held our closing tent-meeting, at Hayle, and Jos. Eaton and I are going to Burncoose.

28, Plymouth. John Williams most kindly brought us to Truro Vean, where we spent a quiet first-day. It is the monthly meeting here to-day, after which we mean to go to Modbury, and to be at Kingsbridge to-morrow, which closes our engagements."

Samuel Capper returned home on the 30th. On the 17th of the 8th month, his brother-in-law, John Backhouse, to whom he was much attached, and who had long been a patient sufferer, suddenly expired; and

Samuel Capper attended the interment on the 22nd, at Darlington, where he stayed a few days.

We have not many more particulars of the remainder of this year, but may here introduce a letter from T. S. Capper, the youngest of the family, who was still an apprentice with Robert Simpson :—

"*Melksham*, 4, 12 mo. 1847.

My dear Brothers and Sisters,—I have been led to pray in secret to my heavenly Father, that He would be pleased to preserve and guide me; and also, more particularly of late, that He would enable me to cherish a right disposition of mind toward others, and especially toward my own family; that He would grant such a feeling of love for *you*, my dear brothers and sisters, as would lead me to desire your welfare *as my own;* and that we might all of us be kept in that loving disposition wherein we should be willing to acknowledge our faults one to another. I do not write this under a feeling of self-exaltation, not as though my religious attainments were superior to yours; but from a desire to stir up the pure mind in you by way of remembrance, that we may not, any of us, forget the necessity of a daily watch; for it was while men slept that the enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat; and it is at those times, when we are off our guard, that he is particularly assiduous in presenting his baits; very often trying to persuade us that there is no need for that strict watch that we, at one time, felt constrained to observe. But I feel satisfied that this is a very subtle snare; one that has led many astray, and kept them back from that field of usefulness

which was designed for them by the Head of the church. If these few remarks do apply to any one of my dear brothers and sisters, who may now constitute the family circle, may they accept them in that love in which they are written by your affectionate brother,

T. S. CAPPER."

In the summer of 1848, Samuel Capper held public meetings in Wiltshire and Berkshire. He writes to his wife:—

"*Swindon*, 16, 6 mo. 1848.

MY DEAR ELIZABETH,—We procured a meeting at Ogbourn St. George, a small village; it was attended by more than half the population, though many were engaged in sheepshearing and haymaking. We could not succeed to-day in obtaining a place for the tent, in a neighbouring village, in consequence of the prejudices of the landowners; so that we were obliged to content ourselves with distributing tracts, which may stir up a spirit of inquiry. We are arranging for meetings here on first-day.

Wantage, 28, 6 mo. 1848.

Thine reached me yesterday at Cheltenham; thy presence would have been more agreeable to me, but perhaps it was best. I assure thee that nothing short of being with us could completely inform any one of the difficulties of such an undertaking as this. It is needful to be armed with patience, in a large degree; but we have learned that this will overcome almost all obstacles. In one place, as I was going to the tent, a man came up to me and inquired our business,

asserting that there were no ministers of Christ but such as had been consecrated by the bishop, that we had no business there; but added, that he would stay and hear what we had to say. After awhile, he became sufficiently calm to sit down, and a sweet solemnity came over the meeting, under which I knelt down and supplicated. Soon afterwards I arose, and alluded to my apprehension of duty to come and sit down with them, and to speak such things as might be given me for their edification, etc. He stood up and said, 'You are speaking that which is false; you are no minister of the gospel; you ought not to come sowing disunion in the parish; the care of the souls here is my charge.' I quietly reminded him that all I had asserted was, that, *in my apprehension*, this duty was laid upon me, and queried with him whether he thought such an interruption of a meeting for Divine worship was a becoming proceeding. He answered, 'Well! go on; if you say anything contrary to the word of God, I shall interrupt you.' As he said no more, we may conclude that he did not find the occasion. The people behaved exceedingly well. After the meeting, he disputed with Joseph Eaton and W. Brewin, on apostolical succession; and touched on tithes, women's preaching, baptism, and the Supper. He received suitable answers, while the people in great numbers listened with intense attention, especially the upper class of farmers. There was a vehement demand for tracts, and about four hundred were distributed; the people calling out, 'Give me one about your principles!' The next day, the discussion appeared to be going on

all over the parish. It will not, I think, do for us to leave this engagement, though it would have been a mournful satisfaction to attend the remains of our late dear friend Daniel Wheeler to their final resting-place.

Wantage, 1, 7 mo. 1848.

We have had several meetings in this vicinity. Last night we had a refreshing one at Sparsholt. I am glad that thou goest to see our dear friend Sarah Allen, to whom my dear love; also to M. and L. Wright, who so kindly call on thee.

7 mo. 6, Wallingford. I calculate that we have, in our various meetings, seen in this way about eight thousand people, since leaving home.

8, Reading. I have made this a day of rest, not to say idling, as I really wanted it. The meetings at Steventon, etc., were, through mercy, seasons likely to be remembered.

15. We had several meetings last week, concluding at Thatcham; all favoured with the Master's presence, so we may hope that they will be blest. As to myself, I am poor enough, and feel my reponsibility; but I trust I am in my right allotment. I often think that the people are like thirsty ground, drinking in showers. We have the kind assistance of Joseph Christy, etc., which is very acceptable, in preparing for the meetings, etc.

18. The death of Ann Tucker is sudden, and ought, with all other such evidences of the uncertainty of time, to be accepted as a warning against indifference and carelessness. I never remember a time when I

felt more solemnly that 'time is short,' and that my summons may arrive unexpectedly. My late meetings have brought peace. To-day we go to the monthly meeting at Henley, and are to have a public one at Wokingham. I pray that the great Master may be with us in all these engagements.

21. Last night we had a delightful meeting at Mortimer. I am very thankful that the undertaking is so far got through. Friends are very kind, enter with interest into the tent-service, and seem quite to approve of this mode of reaching people."

S. Capper returned home on the 25th, and wrote as follows to his brother-in-law W. Naish:—

"*Bristol*, 29, 7 mo. 1848.

My dear Brother,—I came home last third-day, and found our family in usual health, which I feel to be a great mercy; especially as we are now so far advanced in years. We all feel much sympathy with you and your dear Anne, in the unexpected solicitude, and deeply interesting anticipations, occasioned by her present state of health. I suppose that, until her arrival at home, you were not aware of the alteration which it had undergone. We know how such trials drive the mind to the only true Foundation of hope and comfort; and we earnestly desire that this rest may be both hers and yours, be the result what it may. In my late journey we were absent forty-one days, and had thirty meetings; the aggregate attendance about 13,000. We were at one quarterly and one monthly meeting, and at six meetings for worship with

Friends only. We met with much opposition from the Puseyite clergy; indeed, it is lamentable to see the number of proud, self-important young Romanists who issue from Oxford, and overrun the rural districts, darkening the spiritual horizon with their superstition and unsound doctrines. They are indefatigable in endeavouring to obtain dominion over the schools.

Thy affectionate brother, S. C.

Bristol, 19, 8 mo. 1848.

My dear sister Mounsey,—We have thought often and affectionately of thee during the protracted illness of our dear brother, and we trust thy mind is now somewhat relieved. We have been favoured with health; the few interruptions to it which I have experienced have taught me that such suspensions of the usual course of things brings eternity closely and seriously before the mind, greatly to our benefit. But, although our own health has been as good as we might reasonably expect, surrounding circumstances are calculated to arouse us to the consideration of the uncertainty of our tenure. Our dear brother and sister Naish have been at the Hotwells on account of the declining state of their youngest daughter; we are also much concerned at the rapid decline of Wm. Gundry's (jun.) wife. The person who opposed me, in the meeting to which thou alludest, fell in with Joseph Eaton while he was giving notice of the holding of it. He said that Friends had no ministers, as they had none by apostolical succession. The argument continued about ten minutes, when the parson

said that he could not spare time for further discourse. This conversation took place at the house of a poor old couple, and the woman, perceiving the weakness of his reasoning, said to Joseph Eaton, 'I am glad you was larned enough the answer the gentleman so well!' All his family were at the meeting."

Samuel Capper and his son Thomas attended the interment of A. C. Naish. S. C. afterwards wrote to her brother:—

"*Bristol*, 11, 10 mo. 1848.

My dear Arthur,—We reached home safely. My object in writing is to ask how you all, and particularly thy parents, are, now that the reality of your loss is confirmed by some days' experience; for I have found, in similar cases, that some time elapses before I can fully comprehend the truth. One lesson I do trust that we shall all learn—the necessity of being in earnest about the work of our salvation; to be acquainted with the operations of the Holy Spirit, and to know the guilt of our sins washed away by the mediatorial efficacy of our Saviour's love.

Thy affectionate uncle, S. C."

In the summer of 1849, S. Capper held public meetings in Oxfordshire. He writes thus to his wife:—

"*Oxford*, 7, 6 mo. 1849.

My dear Elizabeth,—Our kind relation James Cadbury met us here, and we have taken lodgings for two weeks. After a night of considerable conflict, I have become more resigned and hopeful."

S. C. had the company of his son Thomas, of his long-tried friend Robert Charlton, and of some others, who kindly gave their assistance. Several meetings were held, to his relief. He writes:—

"6 mo. 11th. Wm. Albright and I took tea with the widow of a clergyman, a very sweet-spirited woman, who lays herself out to do good, and whose mind is much enlightened.

16, Banbury. We are now at our kind friend J. A. Gillett's, and feel it to be a day of rest, which I believe I needed. The Wesleyan minister, a very agreeable man, once a minister in the Establishment, has called to impress on me the importance of holding a tent-meeting here. At Bicester, the Independent minister took a deep interest in the concern, and told me that, for ten years, he had earnestly desired that Friends might be sent there; and he now felt that his prayer had been granted."

He was diligently engaged for some time in holding meetings in the neighbourhood of Oxford, in a part of which service he had the kind assistance of his cousin Richard Fry. When the time approached for having one in the city, he deeply felt the responsibility of it, and thus writes to his wife:—

"To-morrow morning (first-day) we are to meet a few persons who would be glad to worship with Friends, were there any residing in this place; and, in the evening, we are to have a public meeting in the assembly-room at the Star Hotel. My mind has

been not a little tried with the weighty prospect for some days; a meeting in this centre of Romanism in the English church! What I may feel it right to say I cannot foresee, but the state of Christian professors presses heavily on my mind. I have also felt very much exhausted by the daily exercise, so long continued; if, however, we are but permitted to be of any use in the Lord's hand, no fatigue, no exercise, no suffering, ought to be regarded.

6 mo. 24. The meeting was attended by about five hundred, chiefly members of the Church of England; several Friends came from Reading, etc. J. A. Gillett spoke at some length. I had to go into some Puseyite doctrines, and Dr. Pusey was preaching in the city at the same time. One old man said to his wife, 'I wish half the parsons in Oxford had been here.'

29. The quarterly meeting was well attended; since which several public meetings have been held; to-day, one at Deddington, which clears us out from Oxfordshire. Thine affectionately, S. C."

DIARY, ETC.

"7 mo. 1. First-day, passed at Sibford school, etc.

4. A meeting at Potterne.

5. Returned home.

8 mo. 5. Attended Armscott meeting. Many Friends were there, and about four hundred and fifty of the people of the neighbourhood. It is to be regretted that better accommodation is not provided, as it might easily be done.

16. My son Thomas married Caroline Merryweather.

8 mo. 19. Susan Howland, accompanied by her husband, attended our meeting.

Bristol, 30, 8 mo. 1849.

My dear Sister,—I believe I have never before experienced so large a share of relief, by any engagement of the kind, as on my return from my late journey; and I have certainly seldom, if ever, felt the service so trying. I wish I could do as my brother John has done—pay you a visit in the north; but, at present, it seems unattainable; the time may, however, come for it. I hear that W. C. Naish has also been with you; I hope to his benefit, every way. We are expecting his parents to take lodgings in this vicinity, as they think themselves too much of invalids to come into a family. Our Thomas and his wife are comfortably settled. Thy affectionate Brother.

Bristol, 25, 9 mo. 1849.

My dear sister Mounsey,—My wife and I have been nearly a fortnight at Weston, and have enjoyed it almost as much as two young persons would; for, although our activity is considerably diminished, yet, being alone, we could saunter about as suited us. Our brother W. Naish and his daughter Lucy are near us, chiefly for the benefit of her health, as she is very weak, and has a cough. My last account of our dear sister Robson was from her own hand; it was not encouraging as to her restoration, but I think I trace the cheering evidence of a state of preparation for the solemn change which awaits us all; and especially those among us who are so far advanced as myself.

Thy affectionate brother, S. C.

1850, 2 mo. 5. It was our monthly meeting, but I did not attend it, being taken with an insensibility, which caused me to fall on the hearth after breakfast. It appeared quickly to pass off."

A few weeks after this date, Samuel Capper visited the north, in consequence of the increased illness of his sister Anne Robson. On his way he attended Leeds meeting, and has left the following memorandum of his exercise there:—

"3 mo. 17. At Leeds meeting, spoke on the danger of giving up the contest against evil; and respecting the preparation of the stones for Solomon's temple, as an illustration of the necessity which there is for us to know the perfect work of preparation for our respective allotments in the church. I also spoke of the danger, if such offices were entered upon while the preparation is incomplete, of destroying the beauty and harmony of the building, if not its substantial strength.

3 mo. 20, Sunderland. My dear sister Anne Robson died, after a very protracted time of weakness. She was favoured with a confidential trust in the redeeming mercy of the Most High, and of its extension to herself; saying, at one time, that she had a blessed hope.

21. I called on our dear aged friends Elizabeth Robson and Margaret Richardson. Both appear to be in a state of maturity, waiting for their dismissal. The latter had to express, very sweetly, her sympathy with me, in the prospect of renewed labour, this

summer, among the poorer population. I had a sense that the message was from on high; and that, if I am faithful, the labour will be blest, and the faithfulness accepted.

22. At the interment of my dear sister Robson, Rachel Priestman was acceptably engaged in vocal labour. The subject which dwelt on my mind was, death is a service which we all owe, and my spirit also found relief in supplication. About thirty-four relations afterwards assembled at my brother Robson's, and had a sweet religious opportunity together.

Kendal, 26, 3 mo. 1850.

My dear sister K. B.—During my journey here, my mind was much occupied with thoughts retrospective and prospective; I was thankful that I had no feeling of condemnation as to the time that we have spent together, and comforted in the belief that we were permitted to experience a little harmonious exercise for the spreading of the truth. My thoughts, as to the future, were of a solemn, but not depressing character. As the eldest of the present generation of the family, I see that my abode here cannot be long; I also feel deeply for my brother Mounsey, whose condition seems to place him almost on a par with me, as to the proximity of eternity. I am at I. and A. Braithwaite's; no friends can be kinder. Thy affectionate Brother.

Bristol, 22, 4 mo. 1850.

My dear Sister,—I have obtained leave, from our monthly meeting, to hold some meetings in towns and villages bordering on Salisbury Plain. It may interest

thee to know that the sweet and touching opportunity in which dear Margaret Richardson expressed some encouragement to me, regarding such an engagement, was truly helpful to me, under some unusually depressing views of my unfitness for the work, and of the responsibility of it. Lucy Naish has rather improved, and the family has now settled at Bath.

Thy affectionate Brother."

CHAPTER XI.

1850, 1851.

HOLDS PUBLIC MEETINGS ON AND NEAR SALISBURY PLAIN—VISITS WESTMORELAND, ETC., BY APPOINTMENT OF THE YEARLY MEETING.

DURING this engagement, in which he was accompanied, and materially assisted, by Robert Charlton and James Cadbury, he writes to his wife:—

"Devizes, 6 mo. 8. We have held one meeting, I hope satisfactorily, in a field not far from our burying-ground; and are going to Potterne, to prepare for to-morrow.

6 mo. 14. We had an unusually precious meeting at Urchfont; and, last night, we had one which was attended by about eight hundred, in a beautiful meadow, with a pond like a lake. The hills were well wooded, and the departure of the people, with their forms reflected on the water, was truly picturesque. I believe it had been a good time, but I was less sensibly borne up, in the cause of the service, than on the previous evening. It would be pleasant, if it were right, that some one who felt engaged in mind to share in the work, were occasionally to join us. I hope to receive a better account of Richard Kidd. I suppose he cannot take a turn in this beautiful country, and exquisitely clear air. James Hibbard has been most kind and efficient in his help.

16, Pewsey. First-day. We have held two meetings in this pretty little country town. It has been a day

of much conflict of spirit, from an apprehension that less of Divine favour may have attended us than would fully justify the belief that our proceedings are under the direction of the Holy Spirit; and yet I can look to no peace in discontinuing the engagement; besides, we must, in honesty, confess that a degree of that help which comes from above has been vouchsafed, and that delightful indications of this have at times appeared: not the least is the sweet solemnity which is generally felt after I have resumed my seat. To-day I have had to labour without the full relief which I could desire; yet I am peaceful. A concourse of about fifteen hundred made it difficult to be heard. A great deal of work devolves on my companions, and their temporary helpers.

17. Thy account of dear Caroline is what I anticipated; it is perhaps well that Thomas does not seem much discouraged.

6 mo. 19. I should not like anything to be done out of its right time and place, but may say that John and Anne F.'s company would be very pleasant on first-day, when I believe we must have two meetings at Enford. We are all in good health, and hoping that we are in the way of our duty.

25, Amesbury. We arrived here comfortably, after a relieving meeting at Durrington, in which our dear Thomas was very acceptably engaged in supplication. It is a great satisfaction and support to have S. H. Lury with us; we were very glad to welcome him and Thomas. Our first-day at Enford was a laborious one; the meetings were times of great exercise, and

the small public house, where we stayed, was a sadly ill-regulated, drinking place. James Hibbard and Thomas had to rise, at midnight, to quell a fight, and we had much trouble afterwards. In looking forward to the meetings, I often fear lest I should not keep close enough to my Guide. However, I hope to be helped through this serious engagement.

27, Shrewton. This is a particularly nice village, with a superior population.

7 mo. 1, Heytesbury. I am willing to satisfy thee, as much as I well can, by writing, but it is not easy to detail the employments, etc., which daily occur. We came here, on seventh-day, after the meeting at Chitterne, which afforded me peculiar relief. The company, of about four hundred, seemed like ground prepared for rain. Many who are looked upon as leaders of the people were present. S. H. Lury and Henry Fowler gave notice in the hamlets round this place, while Thomas Short and I superintended the pitching of the tent, and gave notice in the town. I begin now to see a time of release; but why should we desire to be laid aside! We ought rather to be in that state in which we desire nothing but the accomplishment of the Divine will. I think I shall try to see Cos. Wm. Gundry, if I can. We know not what may happen either to him or to me, therefore I wish not to miss the opportunity. All the staff are well.

7 mo. 2. If thou art at the monthly meeting at Bath, I think thou mightst come to Calne, and I could drive thee home. Yesterday we had a precious meeting at Codford.

4. I only expect to hold four or five more meetings.

7 mo. 6, Warminster. We had a nice meeting at Bratten last night, and are preparing for two here to-morrow. I shall probably come to Calne on fourth-day, and shall hope to see thee there.

Thy affectionate husband, S. C."

He returned home on the 10th.

"*Bristol*, 18, 7 mo. 1850.

MY DEAR BROTHER THOMAS MOUNSEY,—I have felt almost reproached for not immediately acknowledging the kindness of thy writing *thyself* to me, but two circumstances have prevented it: one is that, although I am very much relieved from the care of business, yet, after five weeks' absence, I found several things requiring my attention; and the other that, however unwilling I may be to allow it, I am much less capable of exertion than I was. I am thankful that, with a full sense of my unprofitableness, I have also a sense that the endeavour to fulfil my duty is attended with peace. Thomas was at Bath yesterday, and thought that the invalids there were sensible of the great uncertainty of their condition. When I was with them, they were cheerful. All are much to be felt for, and the parents not the least so. Rachel Priestman has had two satisfactory public meetings; she appears to have a very acceptable gift for such engagements. I sympathize as much with thee, my dear brother, in thy sufferings and watchings during thy restless nights, as one who has hardly any experience of such feelings *can do;* and heartily join thee in desiring that thou mayst be blest with patience, and a continued and continual sense of 'the dispensa-

tion being one of infinite mercy.' With dear love to my brother Robson and his family, etc.,

Your affectionate brother, S. C."

DIARY, ETC.

"1850, 8 mo. 4, Weston-super-Mare. First-day. An extraordinary meeting.

9. The highest tide which I ever saw in Weston; the spray covered the road, and the turbulence of the water was wonderful.

Bristol, 22, 8 mo. 1850.

MY DEAR SISTER,—We hear that Lucy Naish is much as she was—rather on the decline; William not apparently worse: both evince some preparation for the change; Lucy more particularly. *We* are improved by our residence at Weston; but the certain inroads of age are evident. I feel them much more than ever. Thomas has removed to a house on the edge of Durdham Down, which we hope will be beneficial to Caroline, but I cannot look to her ultimate recovery. Dear M. Mounsey sent me an affecting account of her husband; but, in the great point, all is well, I believe. I should like to hear when you have accounts from E. P. Gurney, as I feel much interested about her. Thy affectionate Brother.

Bristol, 29, 8 mo. 1850.

MY DEAR SISTER M. MOUNSEY,—Thy letter was highly appreciated, as a mark of thy sisterly kindness; that, amid the circumstances which now attend thee, thou hadst devoted so much time and attention to me. We understand that our dear brother is now deprived

of the power of walking, and we feel every symptom of increased infirmity, as it gains upon him, but are comforted with the belief that his spirit is ripening for those regions where unalloyed joy is to be his portion. Give him the assurance of our sympathy and love, in the warmth of which we often desire for him Divine consolation and support. Our own health is pretty good, but, as I have nearly reached the age at which our honoured father died, I feel as if I had attained to the termination of the lease of my life; besides which, though not much inconvenienced at present, I have some indications of the failure of the intricate machine. I was much gratified by thy account of our dear friend Margaret Richardson; it is very sweet and encouraging. Thy affectionate brother, S. C."

Samuel Capper left home, in a few weeks from this time, in order to unite with the other members of the yearly meeting's committee in visiting Friends in Westmoreland, etc. He writes to his wife:—

"*Kendal*, 25, 9 mo. 1850.

MY DEAR ELIZABETH,—I arrived yesterday, and was most kindly received by Isaac and A. Braithwaite. I go forward to Bainbridge.

28. I met Josiah Forster and Wilson Crewdson in the train, and we went together to Richmond monthly meeting, which I believe was privileged with the canopy of Divine love, and somewhat of the heart-tendering influence of the grace of God. We have returned here; I have been poorly, but could not be better attended.

10 mo. 1. At Colthouse meeting, which we may thankfully acknowledge was a favoured time. The ride on the edge of the lake was fine.

3, Kendal. We came here after the monthly meeting at Penrith, which was, I think, as watering a season as any that we have had; there was liberty in preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ. John and Elizabeth Meader were at the quarterly meeting to-day, when the counsel of Divine wisdom flowed refreshingly, I think, to various states. The parting meeting, in the evening, was especially favoured. Our dear friend, J. Meader, was much baptized into the condition of those present.

4. Spent great part of the day in cheerful, and I hope often profitable conversation, especially with J. and E. Meader.

6, Carlisle. At meeting here and at Moorhouse. I believe I am in my right place, which is a comfort; more I cannot expect.

7. We are now at Aldstone, where we have held our meeting in C. Little's parlour; it was a precious time. We are most kindly entertained by C. L., his mother, and young son. The evening has been very boisterous, and the road is much exposed; thou needst not, however, feel uneasy about me, for I am especially cared for, as the elder friend of the company, and am not allowed to walk up the hills; which indeed I cannot do without making them uneasy, by the difficulty which I have in recovering my breath. In the meetings, the goodness of our heavenly Father has been sweetly felt. As to myself, although sensible

of far less fruitfulness than ought to be my experience, yet I trust that the little services in which I am engaged are accepted as proofs of my desire to be found faithful. Our engagements are very close, and allow but little time for writing, as thou mayst imagine; for travelling thirty miles a day, in this mountainous country, and attending two meetings, besides the desirable intercourse with the Friends, is busy work. I believe I must conclude, for the present, as we are to be off early in the morning for Cornwood, that interesting place, the birthplace of so many Wighams!

8, Cornwood. We were very kindly received, and attended the preparative meeting, where we had again to commemorate the goodness of the Lord, for He was pleased to break bread among us; and we now feel peaceful at the close of the day.

9. Another day of favour. Came to Scotby.

10. At the preparative meeting of Solport and Kirklington, held at Thornyland, where there is a most extensive view of the country, the mountains of Scotland and Frith of Solway. A day of Divine condescension, among valuable friends.

10 mo. 11, Carlistle monthly meeting. A trying day, but not without much to sustain under it.

12. Came to Wigton, and went to the school. Things seem in good order. It is a capital situation, and excellent building.

13, First-day. In the morning meeting at Wigton, I was brought into feeling with some who had passed through disappointment, perplexity, etc., and we had

a sweet, and I trust comforting time together. I almost concluded that the previous conflicts through which I have been passing were partly, if not chiefly, intended to prepare me for a more full sense of the trials of these dear friends. In the afternoon, I believe that access was granted, in fervent prayer, to the Fountain of all true consolation. I was at the Scripture reading at the school.

15, Allonby. We left Wigton peacefully yesterday, and came to Bolton, where we had a peculiarly favoured meeting. In the evening, we had a truly baptizing time at Beckfoot, and then came on to this sea-bathing village. James Backhouse, who is with us, has had a letter, by which we find that my brother Mounsey has been exceedingly ill, but has revived. I should hope, if I can contrive it, that I may see him once more; though I could not think it right to leave this work until accomplished, unless absolutely required so to do, as I feel an increasing assurance that we are owned in it by the Head of the church.

After meeting, came on to Maryport. It has been a low day with me, but not without a belief that we are in our right places.

18, Broughton, half-past six o'clock, A. M. Yesterday we came to this sweet village, where we met a small company, and again experienced that the spring of living water is sometimes opened to those who are unworthy. I lodge at Mary Sutton's, who is exceedingly kind; the house is in a fine situation. We are in sight of the church at Brigham, where George Fox convinced many hundreds in one day. I wish it

were right that such things should take place now. The meeting at Pardshaw was a deeply interesting and soul-stirring time. A very agreeable company of Friends meet, in a capital house, very near the famous Crag, from which G. Fox preached to such numbers. It is a very abrupt front of a rock, which presents a row of terraces. In the midst of one of the uppermost, are two points of rock, about three feet high, which, standing in an angular form, make a natural pulpit, called, since G. F.'s days, 'The Preacher's Clint.' The most remarkable fact is, that words, spoken from this pulpit in the usual tone, can be very distinctly heard over a large area, which is below this stone gallery and pulpit, and is capable of containing 20,000 persons. The country is passing beautiful; the scenery in lake and mountain is sublime. One can scarcely describe the feelings which are awakened by being at these localities, where such extraordinary convincements took place in early days, and where almost every house was the residence of a Friend, and many of them very eminent; as John Banks, John Burnyeat, etc.

10 mo. 19. A day of unusual peacefulness. At Greysouthen preparative meeting, ability was felt to entreat some to yield to the purifying operation of Divine love on their souls.

20, First-day. Whitehaven. Yesterday I had a delightful account of dear T. Mounsey, who I hope will yet survive so that I may see him. This has been a favoured day, both in and out of meetings.

10 mo. 21. Went, with G. Peile, wife, and daughter,

to Pardshaw monthly meeting, when we had again reason to believe that the care of the Good Shepherd was extended, to help the sincere-hearted.

22, Cockermouth. I came here with Mary Nicholson, and the quarterly meeting has, I think, been a crowning opportunity, in which Friends appeared much to rejoice. It seems an appropriate close to our visit. I believe the day was one of salutary encouragement to some, and of counsel to others; and that the right exercise of the discipline, and care of the church over its members, were promoted.

23. Arrived at Hendon Hill, where I found my dear sisters Backhouse and Harris, which is very pleasant. Our beloved brother Mounsey is greatly altered in appearance, and is doubtless near entering his eternal rest. He appears to be calmly, if not joyfully, awaiting his summons. His company is most delightful; I hardly seem worthy to have the advantage of it.

24. I have twice had the pleasure of being with him, which is most refreshing. He is very cheerful, and quite disposed to speak of the mercy and goodness of his Redeemer, and of his prospects of felicity. All his family are about him, and they wait on him most kindly and carefully. Affectionately thine, S. C."

DIARY.

"1850, 10 mo. 25, Sunderland. A day of great comfort, in the company of dear T. Mounsey, who looks forward to our meeting and recognition in a future state."

S. Capper returned home the next day. The following letter, addressed by S. C. to a friend whom he loved and valued, will show his faithfulness and his sympathy, etc.

"*Bristol*, 5, 12 mo. 1850.

My very dear Friend,—In the love and freedom which our acquaintance warrants, I must with brotherly affection acknowledge that I thought thy communication in meeting yesterday was not attended with that which is sometimes expressed by the word *baptizing;* and I hope, my beloved friend, that, after so many instances as we have known of similarity of exercise, thou mayst be disposed to give thy serious consideration to my remarks. I think I know something of the snares which are laid for those who occasionally have tokens granted them of Divine condescension; how subtlely the enemy operates on a desire to be found faithful, so as to induce a want of watchfulness against disclosing the exercises of the mind, without the clear pointing of duty so to do. How naturally averse are we to the process of waiting and of proving the fleece! and yet I have sometimes found that, after much exercise, the injunction has been, Seal the vision, and speak it not. I trust that thou wilt be disposed to consider this free communication of my thoughts as the result of the true friendship which I feel for thee; quickened by an ardent desire that thy spiritual growth may not be impeded, nor thy usefulness marred. I believe that thou occupiest an important post in the place where thy lot has fallen, and my prayer for thee is that thou

mayst steadily pursue thy course, in retiredness of mind, and be a blessing to those around thee; that, through watchfulness, thou mayst not only escape the fiery darts, but the subtle machinations of the enemy, and close a life of trial in that peace which passeth the understanding of unregenerate man.

Thy truly attached friend, S. C."

DIARY.

"1850. 12 mo. 9. Received an account of my dear brother Mounsey's peaceful departure from this state of being.

1851, 1 mo. 1. Lucy Naish died.

2 mo. 1. Visited Caroline [his son Thomas's wife]; she is very unwell.

2. The forty-eighth anniversary of our wedding-day."

TO RACHEL FOWLER.

"*Melksham*, 27, 1 mo. 1851.

My dear Friend,—I think thou wilt excuse the intrusion upon thee of some thoughts of an old man, which will be tinctured with a colouring, produced by age and a sensible proximity to eternity, and which may probably appear more suited to himself than to any one else. Time does not allow of my seeing thee again, but I do not like to omit a more full expression of my love and affectionate regard. I felt a wish that, under all circumstances of chastening, all conditions of weakness, our minds may be favoured to gather all the blessing thus purposed to be bestowed upon us. Mercy is one of the attributes (I was almost inclined

to write, is the attribute) of our gracious God, and I am persuaded that an abiding sense of love and mercy attends thee. Desiring for thee the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ, I remain, thy affectionate friend, SAMUEL CAPPER."

S. Capper left home in the Spring, in order to visit, as a member of the yearly meeting's committee, the meetings in Durham.

EXTRACTS FROM HIS DIARY, ETC.

"1851. 3 mo. 20. Set off for Birmingham.

21. Came to Manchester. Had an interesting interview with a priest of the Roman Church.

22. Came on to Darlington.

27. The quarterly meeting at Carlisle was remarkably favoured.

28. Barnard Dickenson, Josiah Forster, Wm. Miller, and I came to Shotley Bridge, to meeting. Both in the meeting and afterwards, we were favoured with that influence which is not of man, nor can it be commanded by man."

TO HIS YOUNGEST SON.

"*Hendon Hill*, 29, 3 mo. 1851.

MY DEAR THOMAS,—It may be interesting to thee and Caroline to know that hitherto we have gone on, from day to day, without reason to doubt that some living sense of Divine favour (and we hope some evidence of blessing) attends the daily exercises which are our lot. A considerable portion of the service, in meetings for worship, has fallen to my share. I often think of

you, so differently circumstanced, and yet, we may be permitted to hope, both in our right allotments. I frequently desire for you such a sense of the Divine arm being underneath, and so much of the love of God in your hearts, as may cause all the dispensations of his wisdom to be accepted by you as tokens of his love. My dear love to you both.

Thy affectionate father, S. C.

3 mo. 30. John Mounsey accompanied me to Newcastle; at meeting, I think the conditions of some were visited, and things I hope were left well. At the meeting at Shields, Divine mercy was again present, to do us good. I lodged at Jos. Procter's, whose eldest son is very ill.

31. Had a religious opportunity with this interesting family. Came to Sunderland. Returned home 12th of 4th month.

4 mo. 27. Wm. Gundry, of Calne, died, aged seventy-four: a great loss to the population of his native town, and to civil and religious society at large.

5 mo. 16. Obtained a minute for visiting Beds. and Herts. [in company with his sister K. Backhouse]. Came to comfortable lodgings in London.

20. At the yearly meeting of ministers and elders, a highly interesting report was read of the visit of John and Martha Yeardly to Bohemia, Prussia, etc.

6 mo. 2. The yearly meeting's committee met; I was put down for Scotland, and parts of Yorkshire. I thought much of London, which is to be visited in the winter.

London, 2, 6 mo. 1851.

My dear Elizabeth,—I am anxious to hear of you; I hope Caroline will not inconvenience herself to write to me, as I think we may soon meet again. I spent yesterday quietly at Tottenham, and it was an agreeable day. I went to see Susanna Bigg, who was very comfortable and cheerful, and seemed only waiting for her summons. My health has considerably improved.

6 mo. 5, Leighton Buzzard. I have been but little inconvenienced, since I left London, with my breathing. On third-day, my sister and I were at meeting at Hemel Hempstead, where we were hospitably entertained by S. Rosling and his wife, who live in a fine old mansion, surrounded by beautiful grounds. We called on nearly all the Friends, and I think were enabled, in some degree, to enter into their states. S. Rosling drove us to Berkhampstead, to the house of a particularly retired quiet friend, Thomas Squire, a minister. We came last evening to this place, and are most kindly entertained at J. D. Bassett's. Our visit at Berkhampstead leaves a hope that we were rightly there.

7, Hitchin. We were at meeting at Leighton Buzzard, Ampthill, and Luton: the last I look back upon with gratitude. Here, on first-day, we had meetings of deep, spiritual travail. Our valued friend, Ann Lucas, attended once, after having been confined about five months. We dined with Samuel and Phebe Allen, both about eighty years old. I stay at John Whiting's, who, with his three sons and niece, are a valuable family. John himself seems to be one of the pillars of the meeting.

6 mo. 11, Amwell: the far-famed dwelling of the poet, John Scott; now the residence of his daughter, Maria Hooper. On second-day we were at Baldock. Our old friend John Whiting accompanied us there, and came here with us; and we much enjoyed his company. After meeting and dinner he returned home. At both these small meetings, a renewal of the refreshing influence of Divine love was vouchsafed. The once beautiful and tasteful garden of J. Scott has become a dense wood; still, however, it is delightful. The grotto is an extraordinary specimen of art and industry; but it suggests the consideration whether the object was one of sufficient importance for the expenditure of so much time and power of mind. I have been quite nicely in health. Thine affectionately, S. C.

6 mo. 12. Came to Hoddesdon; dined at John Warner's. William Ellis, the missionary, called on me there, and was very interesting.

14. Came home.

19. Spent several hours at dear Thomas's; his wife very ill.

20. At meeting, Thomas spoke respecting the usefulness of those who feel themselves as the inferior members of the body.

29. Went to see dear Caroline; she is very ill, but seems quite desirous that I should go into Scotland, etc. Her state is truly one of preparedness of spirit; very sweet and resigned, and so mature that I could not but rejoice, though sympathizing with her bodily suffering, etc."

He left home the next day, and thus writes to his wife:—

"*Manchester*, 31, 7 mo. 1851.

My dear Elizabeth,—I was rather tired with my journey, but feel quite recovered to-day. I dined, etc., at Wilson Crewdson's. Margaret informed me of the safe return of our friend B. Seebohm from America.

8 mo. 2, Kendal. I feel as well as when I left home, but I cannot be otherwise than very solemnly sensible of our state, as a family; and shall depend on frequent letters. Thine, S. C.

Brigflats, 3, 8 mo. 1851, 6 o'clock A. M.

My dear Thomas and Caroline,—I do not know that my writing to you will be any particular gratification, especially to dear Caroline; but, if she can without fatigue bear this, it will answer my desire in thus early sending you a few lines. Yesterday, W. Crewdson, I. Hadwen, and I went to Sedberg, among beautiful mountain scenery. We walked about a mile and a half, to an isolated farm-house, and called on a Friend and his sisters; an agreeable and I hope profitable interview. We then returned to Sedberg, and Josiah Forster arrived. After dining, we made many calls, and walked to this farm-house, occupied by William Handby and family. All our calls resulted in family-visits, and we may thankfully acknowledge that much of the enlivening influence of Divine love and power was present with us. As I am but a poor walker, I am accommodated here, and the other Friends went back to Sedberg. I hope that I shall soon hear of or from you. With dear love to all, I am yours, S. Capper.

Hawes, 5, 8 mo. 1851.

My dear Elizabeth,—We had a fine ride here, of about ten miles, up Dent Dale; mountains on both sides, and mountain streams near us, rushing over their rocky beds. We had a heart-searching time at meeting, and afterwards paid a visit to a family, mostly grown up. The six children at home are all weak in their intellects. It was a melancholy sight. We made calls on all the families of Friends who live near the meeting-house at Leyeat; and, in them all, were favoured with such a sense of Divine condescension and softening love as was cause of reverent thankfulness. It is a mercy that a deep and abiding consciousness of the Lord's unmerited goodness is the clothing of my spirit. This day is wet, and my breathing difficult. Yesterday, leaving the carriage in the road, we crossed one hundred acres of peat bog and water, stone walls and streams, to call on a Friend who, with her son and daughter, live in this nearly inaccessible place. John Middlebrook's fine old horse carried me steadily and courageously over the rocky streams and stone walls, and through the peat bogs. We reached this pretty little town about four o'clock. Afterwards we set out to visit an aged Friend. I was accommodated with a gig; the horse was a young one, unaccustomed to draw, and, in going up a hill, Jos. Baines leading him, he suddenly ran back. I got out and endeavoured to assist Joseph in persuading the fine, well-bred animal to go against the collar, in which we succeeded; but the affair distressed my breathing

considerably for the rest of the evening. A night's rest has, however, quite relieved me.

8 mo. 7, Sedberg. I am sorry to miss the visit of Thomas Evans and wife, as they are interesting, valuable characters. Our engagements have been numerous, and have closely interested our feelings. At Carperby, the schoolmaster from Reeth met us; having walked nine miles for the purpose.

Thine affectionately, S. C.

Sedberg, 7, 8 mo. 1851.

My dear Thomas,—As I give particulars to thy mother, I will confine myself to a few observations which may be as intelligible to thee and dear Caroline as to most. Yesterday we paid five visits, besides attending meeting at Bainbridge. It is wearing to have to feel individually with the states of those with whom we are thus brought into contact; but we cannot be too thankful for the belief that we are here by a better than human appointment; although the appointment of the church is, perhaps, as solemn a human charge as we could receive. Many of those whom we visit are far advanced in years, and not a few are out of health, or disabled in body. The few younger persons are situated in very secluded places, and have little opportunity for intercourse of a kind favourable to their spiritual growth. This description may lead you to suppose the arousing, yet often tender nature of the communications which are given in commission to us. The kindness that we meet with could scarcely be described in exaggerated terms, and I believe that

true thankfulness is awakened in many minds. I move along in a peaceful confidence that I did right in coming; and we go on agreeably together. My dear love to Caroline, etc. I am glad that I am much in your thoughts. Your affectionate father, S. C.

Kendal, 8 mo. 8.

My dear Elizabeth,—Yesterday we went up a mountain-side, to visit some thriving farmers, owning many sheep and cows, etc. We had three religious opportunities with these patriarchal people; afterwards called on a worthy shoemaker, etc., and concluded with a solemn meeting at Brigflats. We left them in much love, and reached this place late in the evening. I am glad to find that our dear Caroline has revived, though aware that the improvement may be of short duration.

8 mo. 11, Ulverstone. On seventh-day, we came about sixteen miles to Height meeting, at a small hamlet, high up the mountains; the air extremely pure, and the prospect extending about forty miles. After being most kindly entertained at George Harrison's at Longlands, we drove over the sands to this place.

Yesterday (first-day), we were at Swarthmore meetings, which proved comfortable. They preserve carefully two very massive oak chairs, given by George Fox, also the ebony posts of the bedstead which he left, in order that travelling Friends might have one to lie on. I saw a great Bible; also his gift. It was printed in 1541, and is in good condition. It was formerly fastened, by a lock and strong chain, to the

gallery rail in the meeting-house. We went to Swarthmore Hall. I feel as well as usual, and hope that all is comfortable at home with you; I often earnestly desire it. Before leaving our dear friend Hannah Goad's, this morning, we saw the first monthly meeting book, and the first women's preparative meeting book, commenced at Swarthmore.

8 mo. 12, Ambleside. We left Ulverstone early yesterday, and drove by the side of Conistone Lake; there is a very beautiful prospect, but it was much obscured by mist and rain. We made some calls, and dined with some interesting Friends at High Wray; after which we came on here. To-day we have seen the few Friends of Ambleside, and come to Kendal, where we have paid some visits.

8 mo. 13. This being a day of rest, I spent it very leisurely, making calls, etc. In order to satisfy our friends, we concluded to take tea *twice*. I took leave of my grandchildren and their aunts. I felt very poor, but a sense of Divine protection and guidance accompanied this poverty.

14. Was at meeting, and called on our friend Agnes Hadwen, aged ninety-one, and her three daughters. It was a very solemn, sweet, and affecting time. A. H. expressed a desire that her dear love should be given to thee, because she felt so much for thee, on account of our frequent separation.

8 mo. 15, Penrith. We have come here by train, and called on a Friend who has two nice children. It is refreshing to meet with children, and to see a hope of succession.

16, Hope Park, Edinburgh. After visiting Morland and Terril, and having a fine view of Helvellyn, etc., we came here. Edward Pease and I are at our kind friend William Miller's.

17, First-day. Both meetings were times of condescending goodness. The day so wet and dark that I have little idea of this fine city. I have been pretty well of late, by rigidly abstaining from tea and coffee, and very much from fruit. I hope that dear Caroline will be permitted to live till my return home.

18. We breakfasted at John Wigham's, and his wife took us a drive, to see the castle, etc., and along the Queen's Road, which winds round Salisbury Crag, and commands an extensive view of the sea, and of the far-famed Lothians, rich with harvest; the best land, farmed in the best manner; such a view as I never before saw! We are now at Glasgow.

Thine affectionately, S. C.

Glasgow, 19, 8 mo. 1851.

My dear Thomas and Caroline,—Thomas's letter is very acceptable. We continue to make agreeable progress; Friends are extremely kind, and most accommodating. We have attended the meeting of ministers and elders here, and I felt much for them, in their stript condition; yet the word, which arose as I believe for them, was close, though accompanied with hopeful anticipation.

It is particularly gratifying to me to find that dear Caroline has somewhat revived; I hope that she retains her strong confidence in the love and mercy that watch over her. Your affectionate father, S. C.

8 mo. 20.

My dear Elizabeth,—After attending the two months' meeting, we came to Perth. It is a good town (of 20,000 inhabitants), of a very foreign appearance. On the banks of the river Tay were many women, washing clothes in it; standing almost knee deep in the water. Some had the linen in tubs, in which they danced, and so cleansed it by treading it with their feet. We sat with a small company of tender-spirited persons, one of whom has recently joined our Society. In travelling from Perth to Aberdeen, we had a good view of Ury. I lodge at L. A. Barclay's; a beautiful situation, with an extensive prospect, and I am very kindly entertained.

8 mo. 23, Aberdeen. We have attended the monthly meeting at Kinmuck, held in a very rural spot. To-day has been the general meeting of ministers and elders; it was a time of deep travail of spirit, but I think that light and love prevailed over many infirmities, and I hope the good cause was helped.

24, First-day. The morning meeting was an instructive one, in which I believe the rightly exercised were encouraged. In the evening, we had the company of many of the town's-people. After a considerable time of silence, I had some liberty in preaching to the assembly, and a season of solemn intercession. Heavenly condescension was, I believe, experienced to the comfort of many.

25. The business of the half-year's meeting was agreeably conducted, and that for worship was a profitable one. After dinner, I went to look at the

market-place, and the Trongate prison, where Robert Barclay and Alexander Jaffray were confined. Three dismal dungeons are all that remain, but they are very perfect; the chains and locks, of wondrous size and weight, are there, as in ancient days. We took tea at Eliz. Glenny's and Barbara Wigham's, who live under the same roof; and closed the day with a very sweet religious opportunity with these dear friends.

8 mo. 26. Came to Edinburgh.

28, Hendon Hill, Sunderland. Arrived here yesterday, and in the evening made some calls with my dear sister Mounsey, whom I am about to accompany in her morning walk before breakfast.

Evening. I dined with my sister K. B. at Darlington, and have since come on to Hull, to the house of Esther Priestman.

29. Attended the monthly meeting. It was a day in which we might commemorate the goodness of the Lord. The aged Friends seem near to heaven, and others useful and hopeful.

31, First-day. Yesterday we were at North Cave. This has been an exercising and favoured day, for which I am thankful.

Affectionately thine, S. C."

Samuel Capper returned home about this time, in order to attend the marriage of one of his sons, which took place on the 9th of the 9th month. He was consequently at home during the visit of the yearly meeting's committee to Bristol, which was satisfactory to him, as appears by the following extract:—

"*Bristol*, 2, 10 mo. 1851.

MY DEAR SISTER,—We had a very acceptable visit from the committee; I do believe that it was blest to many. I had intended to devote more time to Yorkshire, but found that I could not properly return there. I was pleased to hear of dear Margaret Richardson being again at meeting: how deeply interesting it must have been to thee to be again there with her!"

CHAPTER XII.

1851, 1852.

DEATH OF HIS YOUNGEST SON AND HIS WIFE—LAST LABOURS, AND HIS OWN DEATH.

SAMUEL CAPPER'S presence at home was particularly valuable at this time, as his beloved daughter-in-law was near her close. To have his company among them was cheering and helpful to his family, and more especially to his afflicted son Thomas.

DIARY, ETC.

"1851, 11 mo. 4. Went to see Caroline, who is evidently declining.

10. I received this morning the account of the death of my dear nephew, W. C. Naish.

Bristol, 13, 11 mo. 1851.

MY DEAR SISTER,—Our dear Caroline is now in such a reduced state that she does not leave her bed. I went to Bath, to see our dear brother and sister Naish, after the rather sudden death of their son William. They have much to comfort them in his end. It was only on the 7th that he wrote to me a very delightful note; and he expressed, within two days of his decease, to a pious neighbour, that he felt all light and joy about him.

Thy affectionate Brother.

1851, 11 mo. 14. Attended W. C. Naish's interment.

17. We went to see our dear Caroline. She seems to be peacefully waiting her change.

19. I attended the interment of Ann Young, of Taunton. It was painful to see so many descendants of Friends in mourning apparel, and having adopted different views.

22. My wife completed her seventieth year; we can hardly expect to spend another year together, but I feel a cheering hope that, to me and to her, death, whenever it may come, will prove '*janua vitæ*.'

12 mo. 11. Dear Caroline departed this life. During her last hour, she conversed sweetly with her husband, and has left us nothing to desire but to follow her.

12. Wrote many letters, and spent most of the day with our bereaved son, who is serene and resigned.

14, First-day. Many of Thomas's near relations met quietly at his house.

19. The interment.

21, First-day. In the morning meeting Thomas prayed.

28, First-day. In the evening meeting, he and I both spoke.

30. I attended the quarterly meeting in London.

31. Went with several of our family, to the interment of our old nurse, Mary Harding, who died peacefully and in good hope, aged eighty-five.

1852, 1 mo. 1. The yearly meeting's committee sat twice. When it concluded, a hope sprang in my mind that all had been conducted under a super-

intending power that promoted the best welfare of the Society.

4th, First-day. Attended Tottenham meeting, and spoke."

This was his last visit to Tottenham. On the 3rd his youngest sister, S. Harris, accompanied him to make several calls; and in every family he was engaged in the ministry—a circumstance rather unusual for him. His sister was struck with his heavenly-mindedness, and felt it a privilege to be with him, little supposing that it would no more be her lot. He returned home on the 5th.

DIARY, ETC.

"1852, 1 mo. 11, First-day. In the evening my son Thomas supplicated. I think I should have done better if I had spoken, but I was careful lest the general topic which had presented itself to my mind should dissipate the excellent preceding matter.

16. Went to Gavazzi's lecture.

17. Finished reading Richard Baxter's Life.

22. Young men's meeting at F. Fry's.

23. Went to Bath, to attend a public meeting appointed at the Assembly-rooms, by request of P. Green: a comfortable time.

1852, 2 mo. 3. The monthly meeting granted me a certificate to visit Yorkshire.

7. Travelled about 240 miles, to Hull, in thirteen hours."

In part of this journey S. C. was accompanied by one of his sisters, who met him at York, and had the

satisfaction of caring for him a little, which his unwillingness to give trouble rendered desirable, in order to induce him to accept the kind attentions of his friends. The state of his breathing had become such as made it unsuitable for him to walk, or to be exposed to cold, etc. He wrote to his wife:—

"*Hull*, 8, 2 mo. 1852.

My dear Elizabeth,—I embrace a few minutes before breakfast to inform thee that I am safely here, with our very kind friends John and Mabel Hipsley, and their son and daughter. The journey was fatiguing. I am, however, well this morning, but feeling the seriousness of the engagement.

Evening. This day (first-day) has been one of deep interest, which I hope may be permanently profitable.

9. Leonard West accompanied me to North Cave, where we had a baptizing time. In the evening I came to Scarborough. I am encouraged to hope that I am in my right place, and am in good health.

2 mo. 10, Scarbro'. I have attended the monthly meeting held here, and made some calls.

11, Malton. I attended Scarborough week-day meeting, and then came to one here. All of them were, I believe, truly favoured seasons, besides several with Friends confined by illness. My friends are extremely thoughtful about me; as they see that I cannot bear much exposure, they will not allow it. I have a fire in my bedroom, for the nights are very cold.

Thy affectionate husband, S. C.

York, 14, 2 mo. 1852.

DEAR THOMAS,—Thy mother gives me but a middling account of thy health, which I hear with concern. I have felt much obliged by thy kind notes. I find, on this visit, with what I believe to be an increase of internal exercise, and perception of the condition of others, an increased sense also of my own infirmities of flesh and spirit; and of the importance of time being appropriated to the highest objects.

Thy affectionate father, S. C.

York, 14, 2 mo. 1852.

MY DEAR ELIZABETH,—I have an agreeable note from Thomas, which does not touch upon his being out of health. I hope thy apprehensions are more serious than the occasion justifies; but one thing we know, that He who presides over these things will do right.

2 mo. 16. The meetings yesterday (first-day), and a sitting in the evening at the boy's school, were all favoured with a sense of the precious visitations of the heavenly Father's love. My sister and I took tea with Samuel Tuke. I hope that, in great simplicity, an endeavour has been maintained closely to follow the opening of life; and a peaceful sense of poverty attends my mind. We have been to-day, with our kind friend Caleb Fletcher as guide, and K. Naish as companion, to Thornton-in-the-Clay, and dined with a cheerful aged friend, Ann Storey. I was much surprised and pleased to meet Robert Sanders and wife, who have lately come here, with their seven children. In the meeting, I believe that visited minds were baptized and refreshed.

17. We went to Cottingwith meeting, calling, by the way, on Wm. and Alice Webster. This meeting is something like a colony of Websters, with an old soldier, James Wake, to head them. We lodged at Selby, which is a colony of the descendants of our late dear friend Jonathan Hutchinson, of Gidney.

18. My dear sister and I have returned to York, after an interesting visit to these two small companies of Friends, and we have since been refreshed by sitting with the girls, etc., at the school in Castlegate.

I am greatly concerned to hear that Thomas is so unwell, though perhaps it is what we might have anticipated, after so much anxiety and watching.

19. After a religious opportunity in the family of Sarah Backhouse, we came to the meeting at Thirsk, where we called on the Friends in their families. We are most kindly entertained by Esther Smith. On the whole, it has been a laborious but favoured day. I feel the increasing infirmities of age.

20. Came about 18 miles to Darley meeting, which was an exercising time. Lodged at Spence Walker's.

21. This morning, accompanied by our kind host, came to Addingham meeting. Here also we had a truly exercising but relieving time. Joseph Smith accompanied us to Rawden. The ride was extremely beautiful. Affectionately thine, S. C.

Rawden, 21, 2 mo. 1852.

My dear sister Mounsey,—I wish to thank thee for thy kind note; and scarcely need assure thee that my sister's company is very pleasant, etc., during this daily watching to know the will of the great Head of

the church, even in our little movements. I think we ought to acknowledge that, far beyond our desert, and at least far beyond *my* expectation, we have been favoured with the evidence of Divine help and guidance; and we are enabled to believe that, if we are faithful, put our trust in the Arm of everlasting strength, and follow the teachings of the Holy Spirit, we shall be upheld, and directed, to the end of this engagement. I have poor accounts of my son Thomas, and it is trying to me to be from home, under these circumstances. However, I must hope that the right way will be made clear to me. Thou wouldst, I think, smile at, though probably concur in, the remarks which are made about my sister's *motherly* care of me; but I really do feel very different, bodily, to any former experience. This I *expect*, and I hope *perceive*, with a humble trust, that I may be permitted to be of the class 'that endure unto the end.' S. C.

Rawden, 2 mo. 22.

My dear Elizabeth,—I lodged at our dear friend John Walker's, and had a precious time in his family this morning. The meetings have been, I trust, times of gracious visitation. We took tea at the school.

23. Joseph Hustler accompanied us to Keighley, where we met about eighteen persons, but few of them members of our Society; it was a truly affecting time of refreshment. Thence we went by rail to Skipton, and attended the meeting, at which were many not members, I believe seeking minds; and I think that our visit may not be without its service, as it respects these interesting persons. I went about two miles

with Joseph Smith, to his farm called Close House. He is a very interesting man, and extremely kind to us. He brought us to-day to Gargraves, to visit two brothers-in-law, who live together, and who lost their wives in one day: they were buried last first-day. After sympathizing with them, we came on to Airton, the former residence of Wm. and Alice Ellis; a very interesting spot, near a remarkable rock, called Malham Cove. We sat with a few in the comfortable meeting-house built by Wm. Ellis, and came on to Settle.

24. To this place my mind has been particularly attracted, and I feel an unusual interest in the few Friends now left here. In this monthly meeting we have ventured to visit the families, which is a truly solemn engagement.

25. I am much concerned about our son Thomas's health, and think the aspect unfavourable; indeed, I always feared the consequence of his anxiety and attention. But we could not have desired that he should either feel or do less for his late affectionate wife; and now I am willing to believe that all things will be ordered rightly and end well, if we are disposed that the all-wise Ruler should govern in our hearts.

27. Went to Newton-in-Bolland; a very mountainous country. Here was once a large endowed school, now in ruins. The late Dr. Hancock, and the present John Bright, M. P., were scholars there." After mentioning the visits to Bentham, Leeds, Bradford, and some other places, he adds: "My sister and I feel much satisfied with having been together, and hope that we shall be favoured to complete the engagement peacefully.

3 mo. 5, Bradford. We have been to Lothersdale, and attended Settle monthly meeting, held at Dale End, in a meeting-house built by Joseph Smith, of London. We visited fifteen families in this interesting locality; many of them descendants of the Friends who, in the latter part of last century, endured a long imprisonment in York Castle. We have proceeded as comfortably as we could expect. There is not a little to suffer, but the belief that we are filling up the day's work sustains. Attended the monthly meeting, and came to Huddersfield.

6. Remained a few hours in the very pleasant company of our aged friend Thomas Robson, his son Isaac, and family. Here my sister left me, and returned home, feeling excused from proceeding farther. I went on to Halifax. Thine affectionately, S. C."

TO A. J. NAISH.

"*Halifax*, 6, 3 mo. 1852.

My dear Arthur,—Thou wilt, no doubt, have heard of the serious illness of our dear Thomas, and of his being at Torquay. I have concluded to return home on the 8th, leaving about three weeks' work undone; intending, should my life be prolonged, at some future time to finish."

TO HIS SON AT TORQUAY.

"*Bristol*, 11, 3 mo. 1852.

My dear Thomas,—I reached home on second-day, having had a public meeting at Halifax. Although we must be sensible of the state of things among us being in many ways discouraging, yet I certainly

entertain a hope, not to call it belief, that a time of revival, of a more spiritual understanding of gospel truth, and consequently a wide spread of the simple views of Friends, is not distant. I do not sympathize with those who think that our Society is about to disappear, but feel quite a contrary conviction.

Thy affectionate Father."

Thomas having somewhat improved in health, his father returned into Yorkshire, to complete his labours there; going first to attend the quarterly meeting at Leeds. He writes to his wife from—

"*Ackworth*, 27, 3 mo. 1852.

My dear Elizabeth,—Thomas Harvey accompanied me to Pontefract yesterday, and this day I have passed on the school premises. Thomas Pumphrey seemed disposed to make me acquainted with all relating to it.

28, First-day. At Wakefield in the morning, and Ackworth in the afternoon. It is a beautiful sight, when the children are in meeting. Took tea at the Flounders' Institute. It is a fine establishment, and I hope will be blest. Spent some time in the school-rooms, and visited the beautiful cottage where J. and M. Sewell live, who are going to Rawden. Was at the Scripture-reading at the school.

30, Redgrove, near Barnsley. Yesterday I came to this meeting, which was a very interesting one. I dined at Edward Bromley's; and Wm. Taylor, who is, I believe, a truly well-concerned man, dined with us. I came to sleep at his house, where I now am. I am

going to Dewsbury, and know not a Friend there. This is a lovely place; W. T. and his sons are farmers and manufacturers, and have all the comforts which religious men can, or ought to, desire.

I have now been at meeting at Dewsbury. My mind was remarkably led toward a desolate and mournful state, and to point out the consolation to be derived from the certainty that the Lord will bring about his own purposes. I am kindly entertained at Hannah Breary's; a very agreeable friend, and I believe very near the kingdom. With dear love to all, thine, S. C."

TO T. S. C.

"*Brighouse*, 1, 4 mo. 1852, at the house of my kind friend Robert Lindsay.

MY DEAR THOMAS,—I was much pleased to receive thy letter; it is cause of thankfulness that thou art so far improved. I think that, with regard to the exercise of a gift in the ministry, that which may be quite right in one individual may not be so for another; and I do often feel, at home, that silence may be the proper example which I have to set. One thing is clear to me, that I have endeavoured to follow the pointings of the Spirit in the matter, and not to depend on my own apprehensions.

Thy affectionate father, S. C.

4 mo. 1.

MY DEAR ELIZABETH,—R. Lindsay accompanied me to Huddersfield, where we were most kindly received. We were at meeting, and I was comforted by the assurance, from Thomas Robson, that he felt unity with what I had to deliver. After dinner, came

on to Wooldale, where we met about forty-five persons, and it was a time of no small favour. The Friends who have suffered so much at Holmfirth were there.

3. After being at Highflats, and lodging again at W. Taylor's, he drove me to Newhill, the residence of a family who live in a capital house, surrounded by fine grounds, falling into decay. Thence I came to Edward Smith's, near Sheffield; a sweet locality.

4, First-day. Sat till near the conclusion of the morning meeting, in silence. I then found it best to make a few remarks on the nature of that instruction which is promised, and often experienced, in spiritual things, by those whose expectation is rightly directed. I had also to intreat and exhort the youth to a faithful reception of the manifestations of the Divine will respecting them, and to unreserved obedience. In the afternoon, I was engaged to point out the privilege of having impressed on the mind a lively feeling of the words, 'The Master is come, and calleth for thee;' and I had to apply them to various conditions and states. Paid a visit to an aged blind friend.

4 mo. 6, Exthorpe, near Doncaster, Samuel Routh's. Yesterday I was at Woodhouse; an interesting and favoured meeting. I also visited four invalids. Edward Hobson came with me to this comfortable abode, and to-day S. Routh has driven me eleven miles to Thorne, and back. We sat with the little company there to our satisfaction. I hope to be at home on sixth-day. It is about eleven P.M., and I think I must conclude; including you all in my affectionate remembrance,

S. C."

DIARY, ETC.

"1852, 4 mo. 7. Was at Doncaster meeting. Dined at Marr, at W. Dent's, and spent the afternoon very agreeably. Saw much to interest me, in the way of country business and information.

8. After attending Balby monthly meeting, came to A. J. Naish's, Birmingham, where I met A. M. Tracey, the interesting widow of Jonathan Tracey, a lawyer, who sacrificed his life to protect and assist fugitive slaves.

9. Found all at home as well as I expected, for which I feel thankful.

Bristol, 12, 4 mo. 1852.

MY DEAR SISTER K. B.—I have been much refreshed by the company of some valuable friends, and do not feel as if I had omitted any required service; but I am more than ever sensible how full of imperfection all our best services are, and how much there is which should cover us with confusion of face.

Thy affectionate Brother."

Thomas S. C. being advised to take a voyage, it was concluded that he should sail for Philadelphia, which he did early in the ensuing month. His father accompanied him as far as Gloucester on his way to Liverpool.

No sooner was this engrossing object of his affectionate solicitude removed for a time from his view than he again turned his attention to the poor and destitute, believing it right to resume his tent-meetings; in which engagement it was a great comfort to him to have the company of one of his daughters, who

united with him therein. But, although he was thus engaged, he intensely felt the precarious state of his son, to whom he clung with almost more than paternal love. He was the youngest of his family, and had been strengthened to come decidedly forward, and to advocate the Lord's cause in public; so that his father, now on the brink of the grave, doubtless hoped that this beloved one would, at a future day, be enabled to labour in the harvest when he was removed from it; but the Lord's ways are not as our ways, and He saw fit to disappoint these hopes.

S. C. TO A FRIEND IN IRELAND.

"*Bristol*, 15, 6 mo. 1852.

My dear Friend,—It was particularly acceptable to me to be assured of the affectionate remembrance of those to whom I hope I may say that I have been united in the bonds of the gospel. I often visit you in spirit, and enter into fellowship with thee in thy lonely circumstances. But I feel a secret confidence that thou art not left without a sense of the presence of Him who is described by our blessed Lord as the Comforter. I am aware that discouragements attend us all, in this our earthly pilgrimage; and having been permitted to visit thee in thy own residence, I can the more readily enter into the nature of thy trials, and feel that thou hast abundant need of the wisdom which is profitable to direct, and of the sustaining power of Him who is love. Our dear son Thomas has sailed for America, by the advice of his medical attendants, as his health has been declining since his

wife's death, and they hope a voyage may be restorative. We desire that it may please our heavenly Father to grant that it should be so; as his loss would be a very severe trial to us. I feel particularly grateful to thee for the circumstantial account which thou wast so kind as to give me of dear ——'s close. As I approach the same period, I feel it an encouragement to consider how my friends have been supported, and thus to gather hope as regards myself. It is a precious thought that we know in whom we have believed, and are able to hold fast our reliance on Him, as able to keep that which we have committed to Him. Thy affectionate friend, S. C."

We now approach the closing scenes of his labours, which were indeed almost unremitting to the last. He held many tent-meetings, at short distances from his home, during the 6th and 7th months. 7 mo. 4th, he remarks:—

"Frome. First-day morning, held a meeting of four hundred; in the afternoon seven hundred: telling meetings, as I apprehend, upon the minds of the people.

11, First-day. Two meetings at Hinton Charterhouse.

12. Came home, much wearied."

He was indeed much worn with these labours, in addition to his solicitude about his son, who was now on his returning voyage. His wife writes thus respecting him, to her sister Mounsey:—

"*Bristol*, 14, 7 mo. 1852.

My dear Sister,—Thy lines of sympathy were very cordial to us. The accounts which we receive of our precious son are indeed a very bitter cup in prospect, and we are now anxious for the arrival of the vessel. Thou art not mistaken in supposing that it has been a painful duty to my dear husband to follow up his engagement, and I perceive that it has had a very telling effect on his health, for he came home much prostrated in strength. They have held about twelve meetings; some good, solemn ones: the chief part of what was in prospect is now accomplished. Perhaps thy brother may add a few lines.

Thy affectionate sister, E. C."

"As my wife has given thee expectation that I might add something I do not like to omit it, though she seems to have said all that is material, on the absorbing subject of our dear Thomas's state. The only hope which we can encourage is that the voyage home, in a sailing vessel, may have been beneficial, and that he may arrive a little revived. But, although we may perhaps be allowed to indulge the hope, we cannot feel it as an expectation. I do not think that there is anything serious the matter with me; but if it prove a token of approaching dissolution, we could have nothing to complain of, when I am in my seventy-first year; having enjoyed almost uninterrupted good health, and being now able to do what many men of sixty could not accomplish. Thy affectionate brother, S. C."

DIARY, ETC.

"1852, 7 mo. 17. T. S. C. returned, somewhat revived by the voyage.

7 mo. 24. Passed the day at Street, in mental exercise and prostration of spirit.

25, First-day. Held two meetings at Somerton; beautiful opportunities! much to my relief.

26. A meeting at West Camel.

27. Do. at Castle Cary.

Castle Cary, 28, 7 mo. 1852.

MY DEAR ELIZABETH,—Thus far we have proceeded, but not without much conflict of mind, and some exercise of patience and forbearance. It was a large, raw company here last night, but I believe that a gracious influence was over us. I am pretty well, but I look forward with solicitude to the close of this service. I am going shortly to a meeting at Bruton, where Friends have gone to give notice of it. My dear love to all as if named. Thine affectionately, S. C.

7 mo. 29. A meeting at Shepton Mallet.

30. Do. at Wincanton.

31. Returned home.

8 mo. 3. At the monthly meeting, gave in my certificate.

Bristol, 5, 8 mo. 1852.

MY DEAR SISTER K. B.—I have had very constant, and somewhat important, occupations since I last wrote to thee. Twenty-three meetings have been held, at which it is probable that about ten thousand were present. Many trying circumstances attended

of one kind or another, but it is a comfort to believe that the meetings were favoured opportunities; and it is also great condescension that, notwithstanding a sense of our unprofitableness as servants, a degree of unmerited peace is permitted.—Thomas has, of late, appeared to improve in several respects. He is, I think, comfortably circumstanced at his brother William's, on the edge of the Down, where John and Anne Frank also are, at present.

Bristol, 7, 8 mo. 1852.

My dear Sister,—When I wrote last to thee, I did not think that I should have so soon to communicate the intelligence of the unexpected dismissal of my dear Thomas, from his state of languishing and weakness, we believe to a state of joy and rest. This morning early he had a copious hœmorrhage, which terminated life in a few minutes. His brothers were with him. Expression was scarcely possible; but it was not needed. My wife and I are able to look at the mercy which is vouchsafed to us in many ways, and to feel calm and resigned under the bereavement. It is most probable that the interment will be on sixth-day. We need hardly say how acceptable thy company would be on the occasion.

Thy affectionate Brother."

DIARY.

"1852, 8 mo. 8, First-day. Spent it chiefly at W. S. C.'s, where the remains of dear Thomas are. It was a solemn season, and I hope also a profitable one."

"*Bristol*, 14, 8 mo. 1852.

My dear Sister,—We felt much obliged by thy kind note, and are pleased to find that you had passed a day* in which Divine favour was experienced. We may, I believe, say the same; it was a particularly quiet time; *but the stroke is heavy*. Before tea, we had a very solemn opportunity; not so much perhaps from what was said as from the feeling which prevailed. Among those present at the meeting yesterday were Thomas Sanders and William Fry; both I believe, in their eighty-fifth year! I do not feel equal to writing much more. Thy affectionate brother, S. Capper."

The death of his dear son deeply affected him; and we have only to watch him, through the few remaining days of his life, endeavouring to submit in meekness to his heavenly Father's will, and to fulfil every duty of the passing hour, while he constantly felt that his own summons might be sent at any moment. For this he waited in reverent expectation.

To return to his diary:—

"1852, 8 mo. 15. First-day evening, S. C. spoke; a peculiarly solemn day. Low, but confiding.

8 mo. 19. Went to Weston-super-Mare, to look for lodgings.

22. First-day morning, H. Thomas, both in supplication and testimony. Evening, S. C. and M. Waterhouse.

23. Came to Weston-super-Mare."

* The interment of Ann Backhouse.

This change was principally intended for the restoration of his wife's health; but he remarked, to one of his daughters, that he considered himself much more likely to be taken. Yet his watchful family could not discover any serious symptom; merely a general debility.

LAST EXTRACT FROM HIS DIARY.

"8 mo. 25. At meeting, A. Frank and S. C. spoke. Spent the day chiefly in preparing a short account of T. S. C., which I sent to K. Backhouse.

Weston, 25, 8 mo. 1852.

My dear sister K. B.—Thy note reached us at this place, to which we had brought some memoranda of our late dear children, to read and consider; but it is not improbable that we might have concluded to send nothing to the Editors of the Annual Monitor, hadst thou not brought it under our special consideration. We apprehend that there is, at times, danger of surviving relations speaking in unsuitable terms of the departed. However, I have sent what we have put together for thy disposal. I think that we are somewhat benefitted by the two days that we have been here.

Thy affectionate brother, S. C."

Full of affection to all his remaining ties, and desirous not to omit anything which he ought to do, whether of greater or less importance, he wrote to his sister Harris:—

"*Weston-super-Mare*, 28, 8 mo. 1852.

My dear sister Sarah,—I have been thinking this morning that we have somewhat neglected thee, by not replying to thy very kind letter. I now take up the pen, to make such amends as I can. I believe thou wilt be disposed to deal charitably with us on the occasion, sensible that one object has very much engaged our attention for many weeks past; from which, even yet, we are scarcely able to turn. A departure from Bristol, for a season, seemed almost needful, and I think we are deriving benefit from our sojourn here. We shall probably stay yet a week here. Eternity, a future life, the world of spirits, and analogous ideas, are those which much occupy our minds, though not so as to deprive us of the power of some enjoyment of the beautiful scenery of this place. But, when we see our children exchanging time for eternity, how can we do otherwise than dwell on our own approach, or proximity, to another state of existence!"

The next day (first-day) he was strikingly and solemnly engaged in the ministry, in the morning meeting at Weston, and walked to the meeting-house in the evening; but, upon sitting down, it was observed that he fetched a deep breath, and immediately after he leaned upon his friend Robert Simpson, who sat next to him, and expired. Thus suddenly was he called to render up his account, which we thankfully believe that he could do with joy, through the redeeming love of Christ.

It appears that his two last communications in Bristol meeting were very striking. In one, he spoke of their stript condition, and added that they might become still more so; but concluded by quoting the words—

> "But, while the dear Redeemer lives,
> We have a boundless store,
> And shall be fed with what He gives,
> Who lives for evermore!"

On the other occasion, just before he sat down he quoted the words—

> "But oh! eternity's too short
> To utter all thy praise!"

In reflecting upon his character, it is deeply instructive to remember his humility; his caution in speaking of holy things; his entire dependence at all times, and especially in the exercise of his ministry, upon the teachings and guidance of the Holy Spirit; and his earnest love to souls, and desire to win them to Christ. His reverent and fervent engagements in vocal prayer, often conveyed in few words, and in deep prostration of soul, so manifested the advanced Christian, that they are worthy to be recorded as a lesson of instruction to survivors.

The following extract from the letter of a friend, received by one of his near connexions, during the solemn days which elapsed between his death and the interment, may suitably bring this memoir to a close:—

"3, 9 mo. 1852.

.... Thou wilt not wonder that we should deeply feel with your large family circle in such a bereavement, and that, on the church's account also, our sympathy and concern should be awakened. But, infinitely wise, and abounding in love, as are all the dealings of our heavenly Father, though his children may weep, and the church may mourn, who shall say unto Him, 'What doest Thou?' when, like shocks of corn fully ripe, He is pleased to gather his saints into his garner.

Having so recently, and so largely, shared in the gospel labours of thy dear brother, and had so much cause for thankfulness in witnessing the unction which attended his ministry, in clearly setting forth 'the word of the truth of the gospel,' we can, in some measure, appreciate the loss sustained by his nearest connexions in life, and a large circle of friends, by whom he was much beloved and esteemed. To me, from a variety of circumstances, the solemn and unexpected event comes home with peculiar force; and I can, very readily, place myself in your midst, now that you are assembled in the house of mourning, and share with you in the varied emotions which, like waves, may succeed each other, in the heart of a bereaved widow, the dear surviving children, and brothers and sisters; sustained, through all, by the strong consolations of the gospel of Christ.

Like a good soldier, the veteran has sunk on the field, with his armour on, and has, no doubt, exchanged the banner of the cross for the palm of victory and

the crown of glory, vouchsafed to those who endure unto the end.

On his account we can humbly rejoice, and his dear family and near connexions have many sweets mingled in their cup of sorrow; but oh! what shall we say for the church! 'The fathers, where are they! and the prophets, do they live for ever!' Would that it might please the Lord, when, in his inscrutable wisdom, He sees meet to call away the few remaining Elijahs, to prepare many more of the Elishas to catch the mantle as it falls; and to pour out a double portion of his good Spirit upon many of our beloved youth, and those in the meridian of life, that they might be rightly qualified to uphold and to magnify the cause of His blessed truth; the cause of the gospel, full and free; the cause of genuine Quakerism, which, rightly understood and well guarded, is nothing less (with reverence be it unpresumptuously spoken) than the cause of our God and his Christ."

A TESTIMONY

Of Bristol Monthly Meeting, *concerning* Samuel Capper, *who died on the 29th of Eighth month*, 1852, *in the seventy-first year of his age; a Minister about thirty-nine years; and whose remains were interred at the Friars', Bristol, on the 5th of Ninth month.*

Our beloved friend, Samuel Capper, son of Jasper and Anne Capper, was born in Gracechurch Street, London, on the 2nd of third month, 1782. We are acquainted with few particulars of his youthful days; but he is spoken of as having manifested an unpromising disposition in early childhood: yet it would appear that about the twelfth year of his age, his parents had the comfort of observing that his mind had yielded to the tendering visitations of Divine love. They were induced, at his request, to seek a situation for him in the country; and, in his fourteenth year, he was apprenticed to Joseph Naish, of Congresbury, Somersetshire, under whose roof he enjoyed the benefit of a careful and Christian guardianship. It is believed that the period of his apprenticeship was often remembered by him with feelings of thankfulness, as one in which his religious character was advanced and deepened.

At the age of twenty-one he married Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Naish, and settled in Bristol,

where he commenced business as a linen-draper. His prospects were encouraging, but the occupation was not adapted to his habit of mind; and becoming uneasy with the showy and fashionable character of his business, in about seven years he relinquished the concern. The next eleven years were spent in farming, at Potterne, in Wiltshire. On leaving this place, he again settled in Bristol, and continued to reside there till the close of his life.

He first appeared as a minister in 1813, and was acknowledged in that character by Wiltshire monthly meeting in the second month, 1817. In the year 1824 he accompanied our late beloved friend, Robert Fowler, in a journey to Paris and the south of France; and during the remainder of his life he continued to be engaged in the service of the gospel, both at home, and occasionally amongst his friends in various parts of this country, and in Ireland.

His communications in the ministry, in our own meetings, were not, for the most part, either frequent or long; but they were delivered under a feeling sense of the solemn character of the engagement. Whilst embracing within its range many of the various aspects of religious truth, the most prominent feature in his ministry may be said to have been, the concern which he felt to inculcate the inward and spiritual nature of true religion, and the importance of those secret exercises of the soul, which are essential to a growth in grace. Though earnest to prove himself a faithful steward, he maintained, at the same time, a watchful care "not to utter words hastily before the Lord."

His public approaches to the throne of grace were peculiarly solemn.

But by far the larger portion of his gospel labours was bestowed on those beyond the pale of our Society. His mind had long been impressed with deep religious concern for the lowest and most neglected classes of the community, especially such as were not in the habit of attending any place of worship. Endeavours were at first made to give effect to his wishes, by inviting these classes to meetings held in meeting-houses and other buildings; but as it was found that their attendance could not in this way be generally obtained, he was induced to propose to his friends the holding of meetings in a tent. The proposition met their approval; and a commodious tent was accordingly provided: by this means he obtained access, both among our town and country population, to large numbers of those classes which had been the especial objects of his solicitude. During each summer, for the last seventeen or eighteen years of his life, he was diligent in prosecuting this work of faith and labour of love; and it is believed that within this period he held upwards of four hundred meetings, in many of the larger towns as well as the rural districts of our country; most of them being numerously attended.

We believe that our dear friend was endued with a special qualification for this line of service: and though often moving forwards in it under a deep sense of poverty and unworthiness, and a strong feeling of his own insufficiency, yet, being favoured to know his sufficiency to be of God, he was enabled to preach the

gospel "in demonstration of the Spirit and of power;" often dwelling, in a remarkable manner, on the infinite love of God, and the fulness and freeness of that salvation which comes by Jesus Christ. At these gatherings, a solemn and reverential feeling frequently overspread the assembly; many who came in with a thoughtless air, as if amused with the novelty of the scene, being gradually brought to great seriousness.

On these occasions, as well as at other times, our dear friend often felt it his duty to speak of the evils which have resulted from the setting up of human authority in matters of religion; and from the attempts which have at different periods been made to usurp the offices and prerogatives of the Saviour, and to substitute a system of lifeless ceremonies and priestly interference for the simple religion of the gospel. Deeply impressed with the importance of this subject, it was his frequent engagement to direct his hearers to Christ, as being alike the High Priest and Sin-offering, the Teacher and Guide of his people,—the ever-present Head of his own church.

It was not alone in the capacity of a minister of the gospel that Samuel Capper manifested his allegiance to his Lord and Saviour, and his willingness to confess Him before men. Often did he appear as the fearless opposer of evil practices among his fellow-citizens; and the earnest supporter of measures which he considered calculated to promote their highest interests. On several occasions he was zealously engaged in suppressing demoralizing public amusements in this city; as well such as were characterized by coarse

brutality, as those which allured into sin by means less revolting, though equally vicious. Under a deep conviction of the sin and misery resulting from the excessive use of intoxicating drinks in this country, he was for many years earnest in promoting the spread of temperance; and with equal decision did he give his valuable aid to measures for the dissemination of pacific principles among the nations of men.

He felt a lively interest in the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, and in the labours of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

The cultivation of his intellectual powers afforded him a large amount of pleasure; yet he was ever ready to resign such pursuits at the call of apprehended duty.

On more than one occasion, in passing through life, our dear friend experienced the trials and uncertainties attending commercial pursuits. It is not for us to decide in what degree these may have arisen from causes under his own control, or how far they may be regarded as having been directly in the Divine ordering. But in whatever light these vicissitudes may be viewed, his patient and humble submission, under difficulties which appeared to himself intended for his further purification, and for the benefit of his family,—and his constant desire not to permit them to interfere with those services which he believed to be required by his Lord,—were, to us, highly instructive. Close as were these trials, there is reason to believe he was enabled to avoid further difficulties by availing himself of the advice of his friends, and by an endeavour

to attend to the dictates of an enlightened conscience; and we may truly say that integrity and uprightness marked his course, and that he was enabled to comply with the apostolic injunction, "Owe no man anything but to love one another."

In connexion with this subject, we find the following entries in his journal:—

10 mo. 25, 1830.—"Though sensible of great solicitude about my own outward concerns, and desirous of being found discharging my duty in this respect; yet my mind has been in a very solemn frame, and a disposition to continual prayer, even vocally, has been felt, for which I thank my God, even Christ Jesus my Lord, 'who is God over all, blessed for ever.' If this dispensation should pass away, and I still remain here, Lord! enable me to do and suffer thy blessed will, that I may be made a partaker of thy holiness, which is what I long for. My heart praises thee, O my God! and my eyes run down with tears of tenderness."

10th mo. 16, 1838.—"It seems desirable to record that we have had a time of close conflict, not seeing in what way, under our present temporal difficulties, we ought to act. It drives us home, I hope, to the footstool of Divine grace. God graciously grant us to see his will, and give us strength to do it. I can say, with thankfulness, that I delight in dwelling near unto God in spirit; and that although He is pleased to keep us (as we feel it) long in suspense, yet I am able to confide in Him. I desire heartily that I may advance in holiness, and attain to greater simplicity, and more entire devotion to his guidance."

And we believe this our dear friend's desire and exercise was granted. There was in him a growing conformity to the mind of Christ; and while he was abundant in labours, to the close of his earthly pilgrimage, there was also in his daily walk an evidence that the light grew brighter and brighter, as it advanced towards the perfect day.

Our dear friend was repeatedly brought into deep affliction by the illness and death of several of his beloved children. In reference to one of these events, he writes:—

7th mo. 12, 1837.—"Such a day of joy and sorrow I never passed. May I be prepared to join my dear daughter! I felt unable to do anything but indulge the tenderest feelings of bereavement, and rejoice with the purified spirit."

The last domestic sorrow through which he was called to pass, was the protracted illness of his youngest son, followed by his death, only a few weeks before his own. Tenderly as his paternal solicitude was awakened by the declining health of his son, he still felt constrained to devote several weeks during the summer to that same course of labour in his Lord's vineyard, in which he had been so long engaged.

At the close of this service he appeared much worn; and, towards the latter part of the eighth month last, accompanied by his wife, he visited Weston-super-Mare, Somersetshire, hoping to derive benefit from the change. On the 28th of that month he wrote to one of his sisters:—"We shall probably stay yet a week here. Eternity, a future life, a world of spirits, and analogous

ideas, are those which much occupy our minds, though not so as to deprive us of the power of some enjoyment of the beautiful scenery of this place. But when we see our children exchanging time for eternity, how can we do otherwise than dwell on our own approach or proximity to another state of existence?"

On the following morning (First-day, 29th of 8th mo.), our beloved friend attended the meeting at Weston-super-Mare, and was engaged at some length, in setting forth the necessity of preparation for death, the benefit of sanctified affliction, and the awful condition of those who feel themselves to be whole, needing no physician to heal them. In the evening he again walked to meeting, and had scarcely taken his seat in the little company that was gathering, when, at a moment's warning, the spirit was summoned from its earthly tenement to an unseen world, to spend, we reverently believe, an eternity of praise in the presence of his Redeemer and his God.

THE END.

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